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Thursday July 30 1998

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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THE UNIVERSITY OF SERIALS DEPOSIT

In G2

Viagra – the BIG story

Plus European weather

Inside Story

The real life Private Ryans

G2 pages 10-11

Online

Wiring up Whitehall

G2 pages 12-13

Students are paid to eat pesticides

John Vidal

FOREIGN chemical companies have been paying British students and others £600 to take highly toxic pesticides normally tested on rats.

They were fed an organophosphate poison called dichlorvos, sold as "Doom" and used in fly strips and pet collars, according to US government documents.

Three experiments were conducted last year by the Medeval Laboratories in Manchester for the Amval Chemical Corporation of Commerce in California.

They showed depressed levels of an enzyme that plays a crucial role in human nervous systems. One reported nausea and another nosebleeds.

In another test, the French Rhone Poulenc chemical company commissioned the Inveresk Research Laboratory in Scotland to give an extremely toxic pesticide to humans.

Nine women and 38 men were paid to drink orange juice containing doses of the pesticide aldicarb. One man experienced "diffuse and profuse" sweating for four hours, another became "lightheaded" and others reported headaches.

The US government's Environment Protection Agency is increasingly concerned that other tests on humans may be conducted in the future to beat tougher rules in the new Food Quality Protection Act.

"The human tests [in Britain] may be a way for pesticide makers to try to weaken new US laws requiring extra protection to shield children from the unknown effects of certain toxic chemicals," said an agency spokesman.

Organo-phosphates work on the nervous system. They have been proven to cause brain damage among British sheep farmers using them for sheep dips and are widely believed to be the cause of Gulf war syndrome.

Pesticides and insecticides are usually tested on rats and mice. Dichlorvos was tested on humans in 1981 but experiments were terminated after five days when dramatic decreases in plasma were noted. Other pesticides were tested on prisoners in US jails during the 1960s and on workers for the Dow Chemical Company 25 years ago.

The EPA's science advisory committee, comprising independent experts and academics, is to meet tomorrow and is expected to formally refuse to accept any future data which is drawn from experiments on humans.

The human tests are not illegal under British or US law. A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday that the tests "seemed to be along the right lines ethically".

But environment groups on both sides of the Atlantic were quick to condemn the tests. "They are not being conducted to see if they are therapeutic. They're testing on people to see how high the exposure can be without causing licensing problems," said Ken Cook of the Washington-based Environmental Working Group which found the documents under the US Freedom of Information Act.

Dr Stephen Toon, a spokesman for Medeval which runs medical trials and regularly advertises for volunteers, said: "The volunteers were all in a dedicated medical facility with full-time doctors there all the time. It's an intensively-observed and monitored environment, far safer than if it was undertaken in a general hospital ward."

No one from the Inveresk laboratories was available for comment.

Environmentalists worry that the use of humans could increase as pesticide companies seek new ways to win greater latitude from US regulators. They are under increasing pressure to reduce or eliminate insecticide use. In the complicated world of pesticide regulation, chemicals tested on animals must add a tenfold safety margin to extrapolate the results from animals to humans. By skipping the animal tests, companies could save money and persuade regulators to approve a lower safety level for a pesticide.

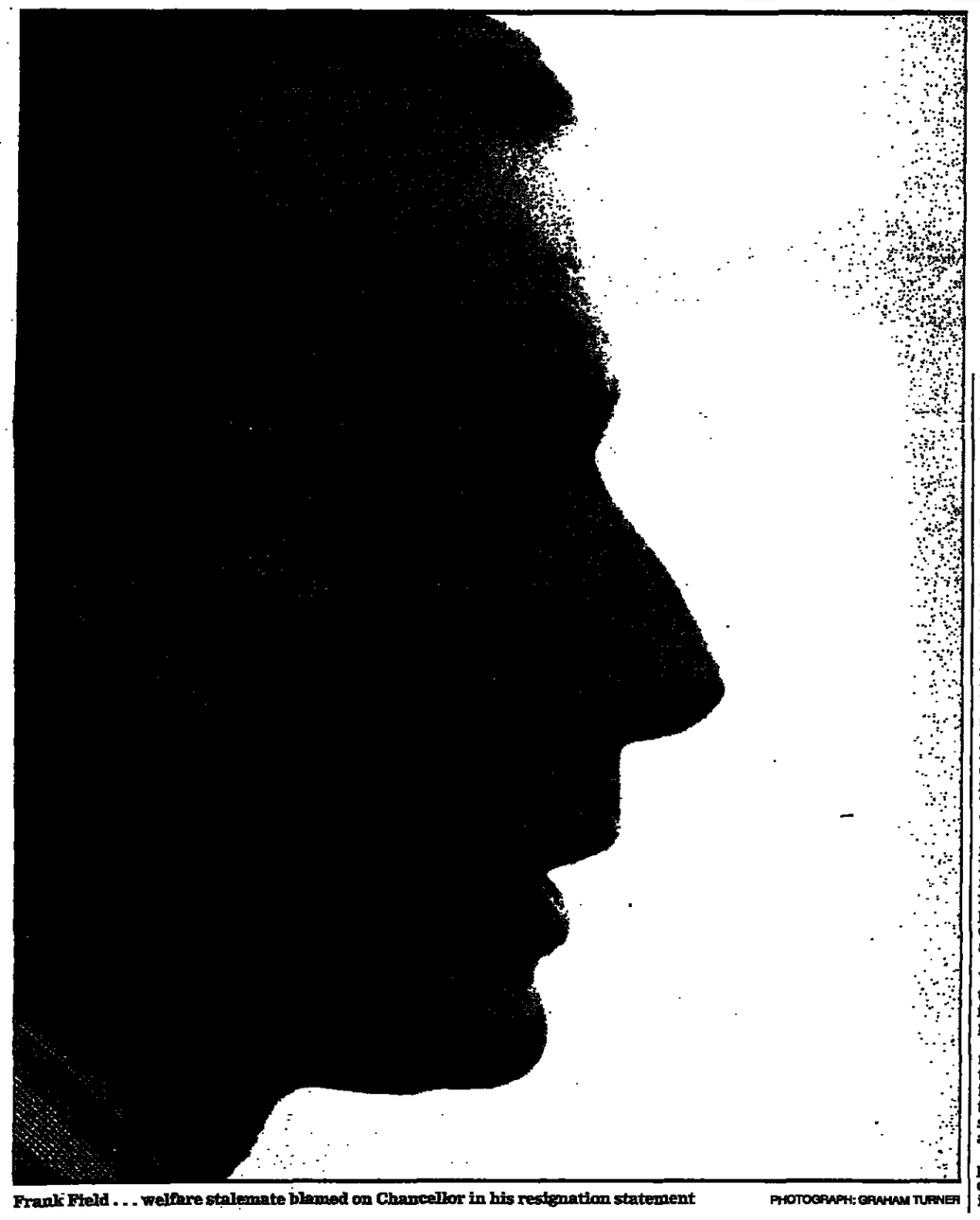
"In effect, by substituting people for lab rats, pesticide companies have been able to increase the amounts of pesticide that legally could be used on crops, or be detected on foods, in water, or in air," said the report, The English Patients, by the Environment Working Group.

No students or other people involved in the tests were available for comment.



'The biggest of all reforms requires, not only an executive position for the person with convictions about welfare reform, but also the whole of the Cabinet, and especially the Chancellor, sharing beliefs about this common endeavour'

– Frank Field yesterday



Frank Field . . . welfare stalemate blamed on Chancellor in his resignation statement PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Chancellor betrayed me says Field

Lucy Ward and Michael White

THE Government's former social security guru, Frank Field, yesterday took the shine off Tony Blair's ministerial reshuffle by publicly protesting that he had been forced to resign because the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, had stifled his efforts to mastermind radical welfare reform.

In a resignation statement to the Commons which was tinged with personal hurt and political self-justification, Mr Field's barely coded attack stressed that driving through the welfare change that Mr Blair promised before his election required support from the whole of the Cabinet "and especially the Chancellor".

Coming two days after the minister for welfare reform lost his job in Mr Blair's first reshuffle — and resigned rather than accept alternative posts — Mr Field's statement dismayed Lib Dem reformers and delighted Tories.

The Conservative leader, William Hague, led accusations that the Government's flagship policy has so far proved an "abject failure".

Mr Field angered ministerial loyalists who insist that the highly expert MP is blaming others for his own failure to translate his theoretical vision into practical and affordable solutions.

"Government has to make policy. It's time to get the job done and not just talk about it," Mr Blair's spokesman said. The row guarantees a harder battle in the months ahead for Alistair Darling, the new Social Security Secretary, and his team — three out of five ministers were replaced this week.

The row also rekindles speculation about tension between No 10 and No 11 Downing St.

Mr Field had asked for and been refused Harriet Harman's number 1 job at the DSS, what he called the necessary "executive position" to push through much-needed welfare reform.

But rather than blame Mr Blair, who had championed his wish to "think the unthinkable" in office, Mr Field dumped responsibility for both the welfare policy stalemate of recent months and his own thwarted promotion to the Cabinet firmly on the Chancellor's shoulders.

There was not much corroborative evidence to support that thesis, since Mr Blair's disappointment in his protegé was being flagged last weekend.

Last night Downing Street moved swiftly to try to play down talk of Mr Brown blocking Mr Field, claiming mystification over "what these disagreements are supposed to be".

The nub of such differences boils down to Mr Field's preference for restoring long-eroded contributory principles to the funding of pensions and other aspects of the welfare state, via a net-

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Menu touristique: rotting duck and stinking fish

Jon Henley in Paris

ON THE menu today, *madame et monsieur*, decomposing duck, putrid peaches and stinking salmon. Our *plats du jour* are deep-frozen and well past their sell-by date, and our kitchen, should you care to inspect it, contains a colony of copulating cockroaches...

Holidaymakers hoping to sample the delights of French cuisine this summer may be in for an unpleasant surprise: according to the latest report from the government's consumer protection directorate, standards in the country's restaurants seem to have slipped a little.

In a 15-day blitz in the first half of July, health and safety inspectors visited 4,600 establishments in the 38 départements — mainly in the south and west — most popular with tourists. They found something amiss in more than half of them, handing out 2,200 formal warnings and 760 summonses.

In all, nearly six tonnes of food classified as unfit for consumption has been taken away and destroyed since the start of the campaign, known as Operation Vacation, said Annie Barbot, a spokeswoman for the directorate, yesterday.

"Of course it's a disgrace, but we are doing something about it. I'm afraid summer is always worse, because of the temperatures. All we can do is ask people to sniff around, look carefully at what's on their plate, and contact us if there's a problem."

Among the horrors found in one unidentified restaurant in the Gironde region were a large number of precooked dishes sprouting green mould. "The hygiene of the kitchen was deplorable, the fridges were deficient and the cold-room contained unlabelled items of highly dubious origin," the report said.

Another in the same region revealed portions of *magret de canard* three weeks past their sell-by date, dishes advertised as home-made but old and frozen illegally, and cuts of meat that had been repeatedly thawed and refrozen.

In a bistro in Hérault, inspectors found 168 kilograms of salmon terrine a month past its sell-by date, while in Mayenne, a customer complaining about the smell from her baguette alerted officers to a restaurant where the meat was "malodorous and mouldy", the rubbish bin was kept in the cold-store and two "old, rusty and illegal" freezers shared a room with the establishment's dog.

The pinnacle, however, was an establishment in the eastern Pyrennees. "This revealed some very serious violations," the report said. "A stove carried the remains of several weeks of activity, and a cold-room contained six cuts of meat in an advanced state of putrefaction, rotten peaches and lettuces, and a mating colony of cockroaches wading about on a floor covered in putrid water."

Ms Barbot, however, had some words of advice: customers should be particularly wary of shellfish, seasonal restaurants, sandwiches and public swimming pools. "Those are usually what most people actually get ill from," she said.

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Sketch

Just one more snub for the road



Gary Younge

TONY Blair left the Commons for the summer yesterday. The rolling hills and clean air of Tuscany are calling and the Prime Minister can resist no longer. He had lost his voice, his temper and many of his former colleagues over the past week and looked as though he could do with a break.

So when the last Prime Minister's Questions before the summer recess were over he departed promptly — very promptly — taking his Chancellor and his bucket and spade with him.

Frank Field (Lab, Birkenhead) was in no such rush. Since he lost his job as minister for welfare reform on Monday, he has had plenty of time on his hands and clearly felt compelled to share his career plans with the house. And so it was that, as Mr Field stood up to explain his reasons for returning to the back benches, Mr Blair and Gordon Brown scarpered.

Mr Field had already been snubbed three times this week — once when he was moved from social security and then twice again when he was offered jobs he didn't want. Mr Blair presumably felt that one final snub for the road could do no harm.

For a moment it looked as though their bad manners had even offended the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd. "That's disgraceful. Disgraceful behaviour on the front bench," she cried. But whether she was referring to Mr Blair's hit and run tactics on the Labour side, or the boisterous jeering on the Opposition benches when he made his dash, was not at all clear.

By asking to make a personal statement to the House Mr Field raised the expectations of the excitable Tories to unreasonable levels. The Conservative leader, William Hague, was practically bursting out of his short trousers *with the thrill of it all. Ridiculing* Mr Blair's insistence that it was business as usual on welfare reform, he asked: "Did he call in the Secretary of State and say, 'Congratulations on your numerous successes. You're fired'?"

Teresa Gorman (Con, Billericay) could scarcely contain herself. "For the men of the North-east," she said, ostensibly in a question about economics, "size is everything."

Mrs Gorman was clearly looking forward to a new episode in the long-running series, Carry On Resigning. This is a gory drama — whose past stars include Geoffrey Howe and Norman Lamont — in which former ministers who feel they have been stabbed in the back take their chance to stab their former bosses in the front.

"There is nothing so dangerous as a man who has nothing to lose," wrote the American novelist, James Baldwin. "You do not need 10 such men. Only one will do."

And this was not just any man. This was Mad, Bad Frankie, the political hand grenade who had been walking around with his pin out ever since he arrived.

True, Tony Blair has more rows of otherwise obedient backbenchers behind him than he knows what to do with. But if anyone was going to sink the unsinkable, surely it was Mr Field.

In the end it was a controlled explosion. Mr Field was more of a danger to himself — and possibly the Chancellor — than to others. It came off as a clumsy thud, rather than a big bang. Amid the rattling of duty-frees on the flight to Tuscany, it will scarcely be audible.

Lewinsky to testify before grand jury that president urged her to stonewall over their alleged affair

Clinton 'cover story' claim

Mark Tran in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton discussed "cover stories" with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern, to conceal their 18-month affair, it was alleged yesterday.

According to well-sourced leaks, Ms Lewinsky is not prepared to tell a grand jury that Mr Clinton directed her to lie under oath. But she is likely to testify that the president told her that if they both denied having an affair, it could not be proved.

The leaks — attributed to unnamed lawyers familiar with Ms Lewinsky's proposed testimony — appeared in the Washington Post and the New York Times yesterday, after Ms Lewinsky reached a deal giving her immunity from prosecution.

That deal was done with Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor looking into whether Mr Clinton lied about business dealings in Arkansas before he became president, and sought to cover up a relationship with Ms Lewinsky, whose testimony was being sought at the time in a sexual harassment case launched against the president by Paula Jones.

Ms Jones alleges that Mr Clinton propositioned her in a hotel room while he was governor of Arkansas. Mr Clinton is said to have to given Ms Lewinsky the advice in mid-December after she was listed as a witness in the Paula Jones case, but before she received a subpoena.

The New York Times quotes two lawyers with knowledge of Ms Lewinsky's planned grand-jury testimony in the current investigation by the special prosecutor as saying that the president told her "if there are two people in a room and something happens and they both deny it, there is no way to prove it".

Ms Lewinsky, according to the lawyers, said that Mr Clinton talked about how she could avoid turning over gifts from him that had been subpoenaed by the Jones legal team. Ms Lewinsky eventually handed the presents over to Betty Currie, Mr Clinton's personal secretary, who has already given testimony to Mr Starr's investigators.

Ms Lewinsky was also reported as having told Mr Starr's team that Mr Clinton suggested that she could explain her many visits to the Oval Office by saying she was there to see Ms Currie, who had befriended her.

Seeking to build a case for obstruction of justice by Mr Clinton, the special prosecutor is expected to argue that the obstruction of justice in the matter of Ms Lewinsky's testimony in the Paula Jones case is part of a pattern.

Mr Starr sees this as stretching back to the Clintons' failed Whitewater property deal in Arkansas, when Mr Clinton was governor — the matter his inquiry was set up in 1994 to investigate — and in more recent cases at the White House, including the possible abuse of sensitive FBI files on Republicans by White House personnel and the sacking of the White House travel office staff.

It is such a pattern of obstruction of justice that Mr Starr is trying to establish, rather than the details of any sexual high-jinks. Ms Lewinsky's immunity deal, along with other recent successes by the special prosecutor, has tightened the net around Mr Clinton. She has agreed to tell the grand jury that she and Mr Clinton had an 18-month relationship, something Mr Clinton has denied under oath and in a dramatic television statement.

She now says she lied in the affidavit she submitted in the Paula Jones case in February. The lawsuit was subsequently thrown out of court.

Mr Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall, and Mr Starr, are still negotating over how the president should provide his testimony to the grand jury after last week's subpoena summoned him for questioning — the first for a sitting president. Now that Ms Lewinsky has agreed to testify, the Clinton camp's stategy is to ensure that the president answers questions afterwards, so he has some idea of what he has to contend with. Even if Mr Clinton's lawyers fail to learn details of Ms Lewinsky's account through the press, they will pick up information through an informal lawyers' network.

Mr Clinton's team would prefer to delay his testimony until September, after his holiday in Martha's Vineyard, and trips to Ireland and Russia.

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Guardian website: http://reports.guardian.co.uk/clinton



Monica Lewinsky leaving the offices of her lawyers, who announced an immunity deal PHOTOGRAPH: LARRY DOWNING

'If there are two people in a room and something happens and they both deny it, there is no way to prove it'

What Bill Clinton is said to have told Monica Lewinsky

Field blames Brown

continued from page 1

work of voluntary institutions regulated — and enforced — by government. More cautiously, Mr Brown has shown a preference for targeting available extra cash to the most needy in society.

Yesterday neither Mr Blair nor Mr Brown stayed to hear Mr Field's statement after the last Prime Minister's Questions of the session. They withdrew amid Tory jeers, leaving the ex-minister to explain that he needed cabinet rank to enforce his case.

His parting shots made for an uncomfortable end-of-term for Mr Blair, who also faced Question Time attacks from Mr Hague and the Lib Dem leader, Paddy Ashdown.

The Tory leader and his aides are accusing the Prime Minister of "trading" on Mr Field's prospective role in government to help woo Middle England before the election.

The fresh focus on welfare also follows warnings made in the Guardian yesterday by more than 150 leading social policy researchers that the Government's approach to reform is deeply flawed. The open letter to Mr Darling pointed to the "worrying absence" of a strategy for social security.

Mr Field went out of his way to emphasise that Tony Blair had not tried to stop him "thinking the unthinkable" on benefit reform.

The Tories are determined to turn the affair back on Mr Blair, claiming the loss of Mr Field signals weak commitment to welfare reform. The shadow social security spokesman, Iain Duncan Smith, said: "Tony Blair failed to support the man he made Minister of State for Welfare Reform, and his ideas. Mr Blair crucially ducked a confrontation with his Chancellor."

Mr Ashdown said any suggestion that Mr Brown had stifled Mr Field's pension reform proposals called into question "the Government's seriousness about constructing a welfare system to cope with the challenges of the 21st century".

Knocking sound heard in Austrian disaster mine

Rescuers' hopes raised at pit where 10 men were feared lost

Kate Connolly in Prague

RESCUERS searching for the nine miners and a geologist feared dead after being buried in a collapsed pit in Austria 12 days ago have heard knocking and scratching noises.

The sounds were picked up by microphones lowered down to where they disappeared under a rockfall. A team of doctors, on hand last night in case they were found, said it was "quite possible that the men are still alive".

The rescue effort edging its way through the collapsed talcum mine in Lassing, 125 miles south-east of Vienna, was given a boost on Sunday evening, when 24-year-old Georg Hainzl, who had been underground for 10 days, was winched to safety.

His release confounded experts who were convinced that all 11 men were dead. Rescue teams had already started to withdraw late on Saturday and 11 coffins had been ordered by the local mayor.

Yesterday evening tense villagers gathered in hope round the crater which formed when the mine collapsed on July 17. A minor earth tremor diverted a river into the crater, which then dragged down houses and a road.

A spokeswoman for the economics ministry said that the microphones had "picked up noises which could have come from the miners". A member of the 43-strong German rescue team said that if there were any survivors at this stage, they would be in a bad way.

The sounds were being analysed urgently to determine their exact location.

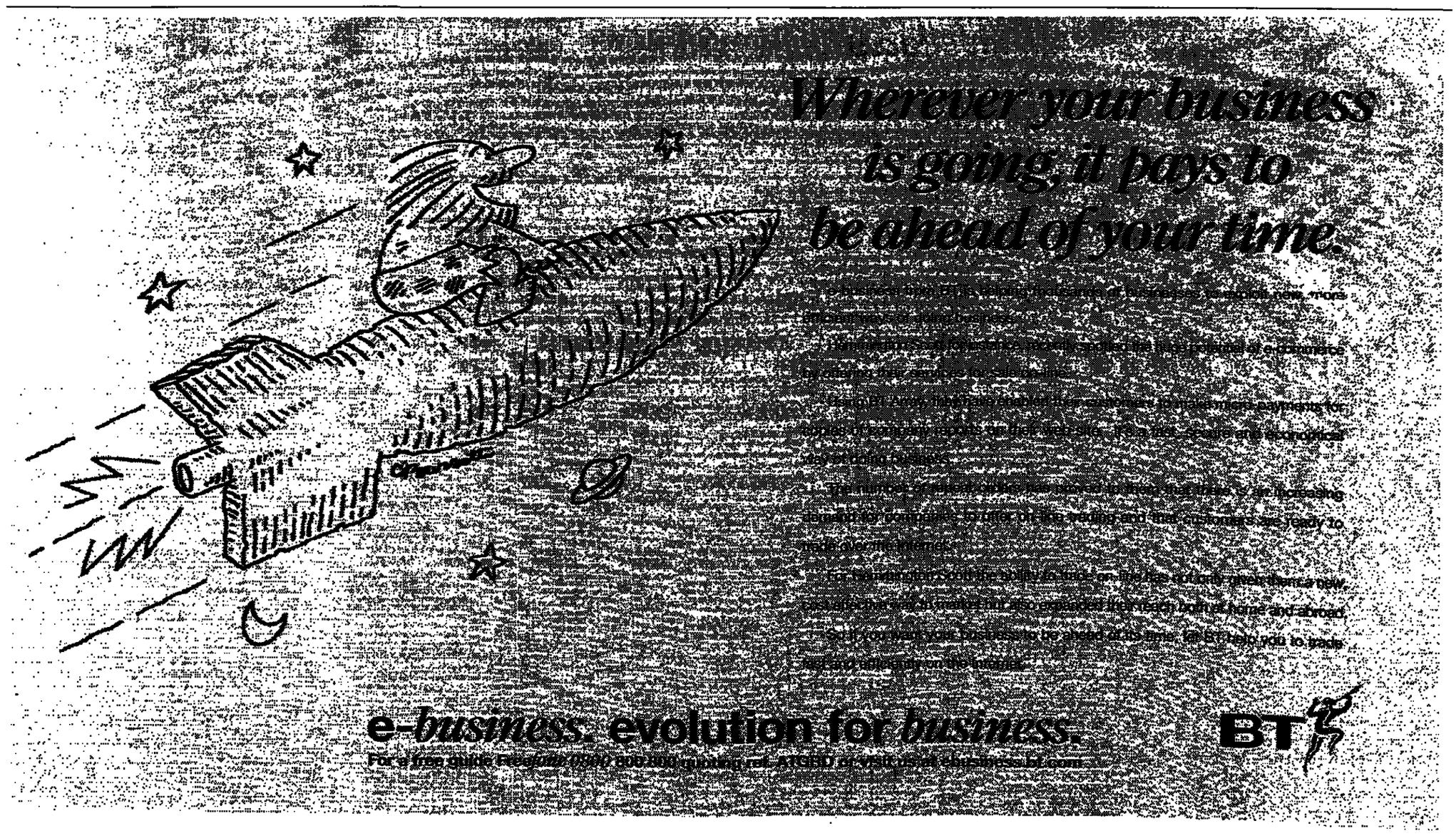
After Mr Hainzl was brought to safety, German water pumps were used to reduce the water level from 50 to 15 metres. But six rescue workers who entered the mine yesterday were forced to retreat following warnings of a fresh landslide.

On the advice of psychiatrists, Mr Hainzl has still not been informed that his colleagues, who went into the mine to look for him, are missing.

His first interview was broadcast on Austrian Radio yesterday. He said he was working about 200 feet below ground when a landslide caused water to rush into the mine. He took refuge in a rest area and called his family on a nearby telephone. "They gave me courage and told me to hang on," he said. But a second landslide snapped electricity cables, breaking his contact with the outside world. Mr Hainzl smoked his last cigarette and then fell into "a trance-like state".

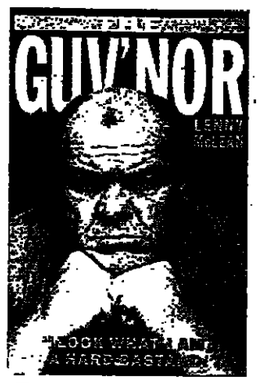
Rescuers had almost given up hope of finding him. But some insistent colleagues threaded a micro-camera down the shaft, and contact was re-established. He was then winched to safety. Doctors say he is in excellent health. Their main concern is to get him back to a normal day and night rhythm after his 10 days in total darkness.

Yesterday several German and Austrian photographers were arrested on unsafe ground near the mine.



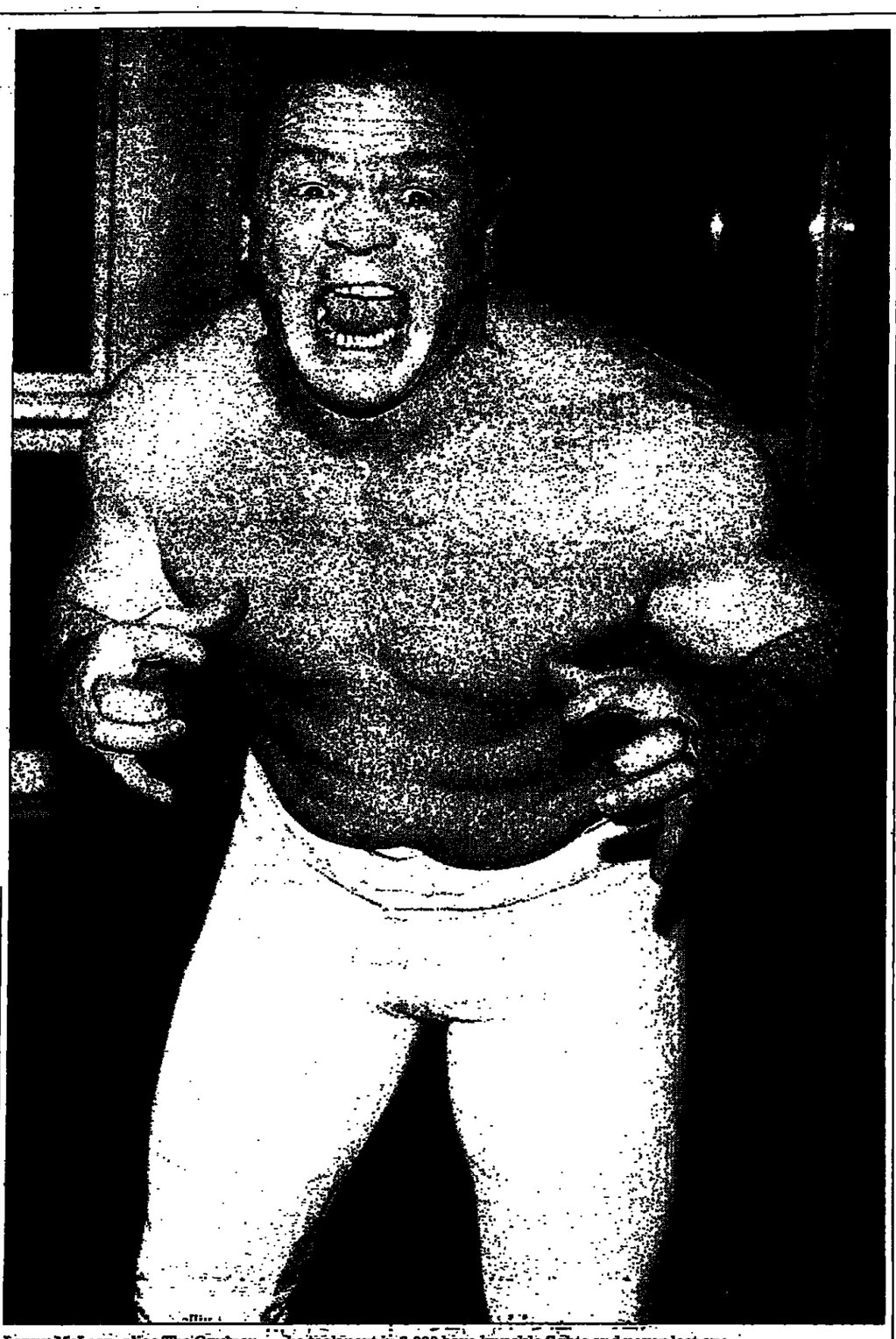
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Death claims the king of the bare knuckle fighters, but his story has already sold out its first print run. **Dan Glaister** reports

Legend of Lenny lives on — as a bestseller



Lenny McLean, alias The Guv'nor . . . he took part in 3,000 bare-knuckle fights and never lost one

LENNY McLean, one of the most successful bare-knuckle fighters in Britain, has died of brain and lung cancer at the age of 49.

But the larger-than-life East End figure, who never lost one of his 3,000 fights, will embroider his legend when his autobiography tops the bestseller lists this weekend.

The Guv'nor, not officially published until Saturday although it is already on sale in some bookshops, has sold out its first print run of 10,000 copies in the three weeks since it became available. With a second run of 100,000 ordered, it could become one of the biggest-selling sporting books ever, according to its publisher.

McLean will come even more into the public eye with the release at the end of August of the film Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels, in which McLean has a starring role as a hardman called Barry the Baptist.

There is also talk of a film being made of his life story and even of a computer game about him. Last year he appeared in the film The Fifth Element, starring Bruce Willis.

Yesterday the publishers of The Guv'nor and the book's co-author were unsure whether to celebrate or mourn.

Crime writer Peter Gerrard, who wrote the book with McLean, said: "I have very mixed emotions. The book was turned down on many occasions and now with it going to the top of the best-seller lists, we've won. I'm so pleased for Lenny. He was both brawn and brain. He was very shrewd and very businesslike, which often fooled people."

McLean last hit the headlines in 1992, when he was tried for a murder at a night-club where he worked as a bouncer. He was acquitted on the murder charge, but served 18 months in jail for grievous bodily harm.

But it was as bare-knuckle fighter and a figure involved in the more marginal sides of East End life that McLean was known. For Ronnie Kray, whose funeral McLean attended, he was "one of the best people I have ever met . . . a gentleman and one of the best fighters I have ever seen."

Reggie Kray called him "a legend in his own lifetime", while the last of the trinity, Charlie Kray, declared: "I have the greatest respect for him as a fighter. I have an even greater respect for him as a man."

McLean was known throughout London for 20 years as a boxer and a bouncer, and was a big draw on south London's unlicensed fighting scene. He was featured on News At Ten attacking another fighter known as Brian "The Mad Gypsy" Bradshaw after he headbutted McLean before the beginning of a fight. In one arranged fight in the 1970s, McLean was flown to New York by the Mafia to take on their leading bare-knuckle fighter, John McCormack, in a multi-million dollar bout. McCormack lasted less than three minutes.

McLean was also brought in to intimidate an IRA-backed gang in London involved in a money-laundering scam.

Gerrard explained that when he met McLean, shortly after the fighter had served his prison term, they agreed to collaborate on a book. "Reggie Kray sent me along to meet him. We hit it off on that first night. His prison term made him rethink his whole life."

The book was commissioned and then rejected by a publisher before it was picked up by Blake Publishing. The advance to the pair was £1,000. "It's like a wonderful weepy film," said publisher John Blake. "He's finally persuaded a publisher to put out his book and he's been proved right. Yet again he's come out on top.

"It's extraordinary timing that he has died. It's very bizarre. I don't think he would have been bitter. The attention would have pleased him enormously. He will be looking down from heaven and laughing."

McLean was taken ill four months ago while on holiday in Spain. On his return he thought he was suffering from the effects of flu and decided to "work off" the symptoms, running an extra mile every day. After this failed he was diagnosed as having lung and brain cancer.

Two weeks ago he attended a book signing at an Oxford Street bookstore, but died on Tuesday.

"He hung on for the signing," said Gerrard. "After that he went downhill. But the signing was such a success that he kept saying, 'We've got a bestseller'. Of course, we had to agree with him."

In Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels, McLean appears alongside another hardman, Vinnie Jones. "They were two tough guys together," said Gerrard, "although I wouldn't say Vinnie was in the same league as Lenny."

Yesterday, the footballer paid tribute to the fighter-turned-actor. "Lenny was like an uncle to me and to everyone on the set of Lock Stock. He taught me the ropes and will be sorely missed. A natural character."

Doctor in cancer row criticises hospital

Sarah Boseley
Health Correspondent

THE doctor at the centre of the cervical cancer scare which has led to the recall of over 1,000 women for new tests said yesterday that his patients were no more at risk than any others.

Graham Barker, who carried out colposcopy examinations on women whose smear tests had been found to be abnormal, has taken voluntary leave from St George's Hospital in Tooting, south London, until after the recall.

But Mr Barker says the hospital is making women unnecessarily anxious by bringing them back in for tests to ensure there are no signs of cervical cancer.

"It has been very alarmist. A lot of women have been alarmed by this — and I believe unnecessarily," he said yesterday at his home in Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

An independent investigation at the hospital found that eight out of 19 of Mr Barker's patients who had gone on to develop cervical cancer had been unacceptably managed while a further four gave cause for concern. One woman among the unacceptable cases had died.

But Mr Barker said yesterday that follow-up procedures, including further smear tests, would have caught any women who still had cancerous cells after his examination of the cervix and excision procedure — in which the suspect cells are cut away.

"If these patients have had negative smears after my treatment, why should they be worried? They have had the same treatment as everyone else.

"My treatments have been audited and I know that my work falls within national guidelines. I believe my work is no different to anybody else's in the NHS. All my patients have been very closely followed up and I closely liaise with all the GPs."

The investigation of the group of 19 women followed serious professional disagreements between Mr Barker and a consultant gynaecologist appointed above him in 1995.

The consultant, Desmond Barton, argued that Mr Barker was not performing enough biopsies — in which a sample of tissue is cut out and sent to the lab for analysis. National guidelines say a biopsy should almost always be done. The consultant also criticised Mr Barker's technique for removing cancerous cells, saying his excision was not deep enough.

"There have been a lot of disputes between me and Mr Barton about medical practice," said Mr Barker. "The main disagreement is that Mr Barton wants to treat women under local anaesthetic in a an operating room.

"Most of the women I see are in the fertile age range and don't want unnecessary operations which could cause them problems in the future. I refuse to force women to have appointments under local anaesthetic because that's not what they want."

He did not disagree with Mr Barton on everything, but on some matters, he said, "he's got very radical views and he likes to take large pieces out of the neck of the womb."

He added: "I feel that we could not get on together and in desperation the medical director of St George's asked two independent advisers to help us form a joint protocol, but we couldn't agree.

"I feel the trust is having something of a vendetta against me, which is all very well for them and I. But the greater importance is people up and down the country are being scared witless by this."

Mr Barker said he had received many messages of support. More than 2,000 women have phoned the helpline set up after the recall letters were sent out to 1,036 women who underwent colposcopy examinations with Mr Barker between 1988 and 1998.

> 'My treatments have been audited and I know that my work falls within national guidelines'

Hospital investigators decided there was no need to bring back the rest of the 5,000 patients he had treated during that time. Some 350 patients have now arranged new tests after contacting the hospital.

There are particular concerns for the women's health because all of them will have been referred to Mr Barker for diagnosis and possible treatment after having a smear test that was reported as abnormal by the lab.

An extra 12 clinics a week and four additional doctors have been drafted in to see the women. It is estimated the cost of the recall will be £150,000-£200,000.

The hospital helpline can be reached on 0800 328 6905.



Graham Barker: 'Response was unduly alarmist'

Brussels poll finds Britons warming to the euro

Martin Walker in Brussels

EUROPEAN Union officials were yesterday celebrating the results of a new poll showing British opinion now almost evenly balanced for and against the EU's planned single currency.

The latest in the EU's own series of monthly tracking polls of British opinion gives the most pro-euro result ever recorded, with 49 per against submerging the pound into the single currency, and 46 per cent in favour. With the poll's margin of error at three percentage points, the two sides on what the government has called "the most important decision of this generation" are now neck and neck.

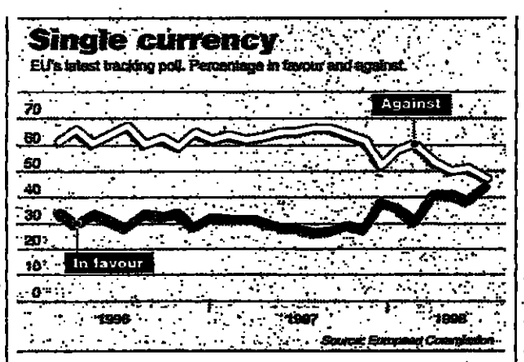
The poll soundings were taken last month, and EU officials have been heartened by the sharp improvement registered over the result of the May poll, which showed opinion running 53-40 against the single currency.

"As the prospect of the single currency becomes more concrete and the deadlines approach to focus attention on the debate in Britain, it seems that the traditional British pragmatism is coming to the fore," a Commission official argued yesterday.

"It is not for us to say whether the British Government might reconsider its decision to hold its referendum after the next election, but we think British membership of the single currency would be good for Britain and good for the euro," he said.

Brussels has been relieved by the Europhile look of this week's British Cabinet reshuffle. If the latest poll results are correct, the British public, too, is tilting towards Europe.

The poll also shows opinion shifing in Sweden, which like Britain will not be joining the euro at its birth in January: 48 per cent of those Swedes surveyed declared themselves against participation in a single currency, while 46 per cent were in favour. The Danish public remains the most sceptical in the 15-nation union, opposing the single currency by a margin of 53-39 per cent.



The sour note in the latest poll results was that 50 per cent of respondents across Europe said they felt "impotent and disempowered" when they thought of the single currency — an ominous sign that it remains a project of elites, imposed on the public.

Only 25 per cent across Europe said they felt enthusiastic. But 60 per cent said that when they thought of the euro they felt "interested", and 63 per cent said that it made them feel "European".

The EU has been running a continuous tracking survey for the past 30 months on the single currency in all European member states. Until late last year, British opinion had been stable at more than 60 per cent opposed and never more than 35 per cent in favour.

Last November, after Tony Blair's Government made its formal policy statement saying that Britain would indeed join at a later date — pending a referendum and more convergence between the European and British economies — opinion began to warm significantly towards the euro.

That convergence is now looking closer, as the British economy slows and the European recovery gathers pace. Both France and Germany are expecting 3 per cent growth this year and next year. The exchange rate of the pound against the German mark is also dropping towards 2.90 after peaking in the spring at an export-crushing level of more than 3 marks to the pound.

The EU's poll is conducted by an independent polling company, Euroquest MRB. It is based in London and has the contract to run the polls across Europe. In some countries it sub-contracts local pollsters, but the British monthly poll of 800 adults is run by the company itself.

The standard question is to invite respondents to agree or disagree with the proposition: "There should be a single currency, the euro, replacing the pound and all the other EU currencies."

Mowlam rules IRA can stay in release scheme

Decision puts Trimble on spot over Unionist role in assembly

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, last night ruled that convicted IRA terrorists would qualify for the accelerated prisoner release programme, despite the RUC's belief that the IRA was involved in the murder of Andrew Kearney in Belfast 10 days ago.

Her decision, although expected, poses serious problems for David Trimble, Northern Ireland's first minister. He will have to decide soon after the assembly reconvenes next month whether his party, the Ulster Unionists, and Sinn Fein can sit together in the proposed power-sharing executive.

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionists, suggested last night that the Good Friday Agreement was close to collapse. He accused Ms Mowlam of bending over backwards to keep Sinn Fein happy.

Mr Taylor said: "What we want is the full implementation of the agreement. Sinn Fein/IRA are not complying with its requirements. The agreement cannot proceed if they remain part of it."

Ulster Unionists have already pointed out that the IRA has failed even to nominate a representative to deal with the independent body on the decommissioning of terrorist weapons. Both the British and Irish governments say the IRA is inextricably linked to Sinn Fein.

The shooting of Mr Kearney, aged 33, has strengthened Ulster Unionist opposition to Sinn Fein's participation in the 12-member executive. In the absence of IRA concessions over the next six weeks, it is inconceivable that Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein could shortly be partners in government.

Two men are being held over the killing of Mr Kearney, a father of four, in the New Lodge area of north Belfast. The IRA man who ordered the attack has fled the country. Mr Kearney beat him up in a west Belfast pub three weeks ago.

Ulster Unionists argue that the IRA is failing to comply with the requirements on early releases, which became law only on Tuesday. These indicate that a terror group must demonstrate a "complete and unequivocal ceasefire" before its prisoners are eligible.

Sinn Fein, whose 18 seats in the assembly qualify it for two places in the executive, argues that it draws its mandate solely from its voters.

The scenario next month could lead to the much threatened realignment of politics within Unionism, which Jeffrey Donaldson, Ulster Unionist MP, is now mooting.

Mr Donaldson, an opponent of the agreement, said yesterday that Tony Blair had broken his pledges on prison releases. He had told voters before May's referendum on the agreement that only those belonging to organisations which had disavowed violence would qualify.

Ms Mowlam also decided that the Ulster Defence Association, the Ulster Freedom Fighters and the Ulster Volunteer Force will benefit from the scheme. Their ceasefire was called in October 1994. In all, 402 convicted terrorists will be freed within two years. The first batch will leave jail in September.

The bill increases remission from one-half of sentence to two-thirds. Instead of 110 prisoners who would have been released in the next year had there been no changes, 294 will now come out.

The Loyalist Volunteer Force is excluded, despite its calling a ceasefire on May 15. Also excluded are the Irish National Liberation Army, the Continuity IRA and the Real IRA. None is on ceasefire.

Chasing Paradise in dark times

Review

Letter To Paradise,
Gerard McBurney
The Proms, Royal Albert Hall

THE new work by composer, writer and broadcaster Gerard McBurney is a nihilistic love story set in dark times.

An exploration of the bitter emotional, creative and spiritual frustrations of the Stalinist era, it's the product of McBurney's remarkable understanding of, and abiding concern with, 20th century Russian culture.

Essentially a monodrama for bass and orchestra, Letter To Paradise also obliquely relates to his earlier collaboration with his brother Simon, director of Theatre de Complicité, whose quirkily surrealistic show Out Of A House Walked A Man not only featured Gerard's incidental music, but was based on the works of one of his favourite writers, Daniil Kharms. McBurney, faced with the daunting commission to provide "a Russian love letter" for the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Mark Wigglesworth turned back to Kharms and unearthed one of his more bizarre, indeed unnerving, texts.

A modernist in the Leninist era, Kharms later went "underground", earning his living as a writer of children's books, though he privately continued with his literary experiments with little thought of publication. A victim of Stalin's purges, he died in prison during the siege of Leningrad in 1941.

His work remained unpublished until the collapse of the Soviet Union, though McBurney encountered privately circulated copies while a student in Moscow in the early 1980s.

The love letter which he chose dates from 1931, and is possibly a work of fiction; it's addressed to one Raisa Polyakovska, voyeuristically observed through the windows of Kharms's apartment while he spends long nocturnal vigils struggling with writer's block.

It's a dense subject and one with which McBurney struggles. Flaring brass and woodwind flourishes rear upward with a macho, assertive swagger only to be answered by needly percussive tintinnabulations which at once suggest the distant drone of a great city, the nervous exhaustion which grinds the writer down and the emotional and spiritual void in which he lives and works.

It doesn't quite work, however. Remarkable though the sonorities are, the piece is a shade unvarying.

Though McBurney employs a reduced string section, his brass writing is occasionally strident to the point of obliterating the soloist — the Armenian bass Tigran Martirossian, who negotiated the tricky though lyrical vocal line with ease, if a bit too coolly.



In G2 today: Joanna Coles is in East Hampton, where the US mega rich enshrine themselves

+ Sampling the cost of British water with Consumer + Online + Cartoons + Classifieds

Boy murdered by violent stepfather

Four-year-old died two months after being taken off social services at-risk register

Helen Carter

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD boy who had been taken off a social services at-risk register, despite the concerns of a doctor, died two months later at the hands of his mother and stepfather.

William Ward, aged 32, from Grimsby, described in court as a violent, dangerous heroin addict, was jailed for life for murder at Nottingham crown court yesterday, with a recommendation that he serve at least 20 years for inflicting "unimaginable torment" on the boy. The boy's mother, who cannot be named, was convicted of manslaughter and child cruelty and sentenced to 10 years.

The judge, Mr Justice Ognall, said he was referring the papers to the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, so he may consider whether to conduct his own investigation. He said the history of the relationship between the family and North East Lincolnshire's social services department gave cause for concern.

"The social services have already instigated a wide-ranging internal inquiry into these matters — I don't think they are thorough enough," he said.

Social workers and police officers decided to take the boy off the register at a case conference last October, despite a hospital doctor's suspicions that the child was still at risk.

On December 6 the youngster died a slow and painful death after his duodenum was ruptured by a blow to his stomach. As he lay dying on the sofa, his mother and Ward had sex on the floor.

Yesterday Graham Barnett, chairman of North East Lincolnshire area child protection committee, said the child had been taken off the register after his mother had given them false information.

> Death was slow and painful after his duodenum was ruptured

"Very sadly, the knowledge now available suggests that the partnership to protect Child A was undermined by incomplete and inaccurate information given by Child A's mother," he said. "With the benefit of hindsight, it would have not been appropriate to remove the child from the register had we had the information at the time. That should not be read to imply that there were no services at all for the child."

He said the review panel would involve members of his extended family and would consider evidence from the trial before producing its final report. "The report will analyse each agency's involvement to ensure that any lessons from this case are acted upon by all organisations involved in child protection.

"The people responsible for this little boy's death have been sentenced."

A post mortem examination revealed 100 injuries to his body. Ward was described as a bully who systematically abused, hit, burned and eventually killed the boy.

The prosecution alleged the fatal injury was inflicted two days before the boy died but neither Ward nor the mother sought medical help until he was close to death.

James Hunt QC, prosecuting said: "The medical evidence is that he would have been in excruciating pain. The left eardrum was perforated, the right testicle was swollen and requiring treatment."

> Couple made love on floor as boy lay dying from his injuries on sofa

Jailing Ward, Mr Justice Ognall said: "You inflicted upon him sustained, sadistic and perverted violence and, with brutality, you killed him. While he was dying in your presence, you, and that wretched woman who was his mother, could think only of yourselves."

He said Ward had shown neither remorse nor any vestige of compassion.

After the verdict, the boy's grandfather said he was angry with social services. "Why did they leave my grandson there until he was murdered?" he asked.

Detective Chief Inspector Mark Summer, of Humberside police, who led the investigation, said: "My feelings go out to the child's natural father who was one of the few positive influences during his short life."

Care in community shake-up will give doctors more power

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

DOCTORS will be given last resort powers to force mental patients who are not in hospital to take their medication, ministers yesterday made clear as they unveiled details of a care in the community shake-up.

Paul Boateng, junior minister responsible for mental health policy, promised the move would not mean patients being "held down against their will and forcibly injected over their kitchen tables". Health workers did not want such power, he said.

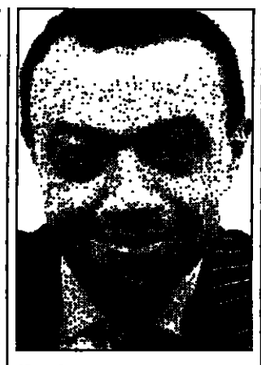
"But they do want to be able to follow through with the power to visit, to enter [a home] and to bring back to an appropriate clinical setting someone for treatment — and that is a power we believe they should have."

Debate about compulsory community treatment has raged for years. At present a patient can be forcibly medicated only in hospital, and the last government's moves to strengthen the law provided only for the power in limited circumstances to "take and convey" somebody to hospital for treatment.

Civil liberties and liberal mental health groups have opposed compulsion outside hospital, but there were signs last night that they may be more receptive to the idea now it is part of a broad — and probably heavily funded — package to rehabilitate care in the community.

As disclosed by the Guardian last Saturday, the package includes provision of round-the-clock services for patients in the community, including so-called outreach teams to work with those in danger of relapse, more acute care beds and a network of community units staffed by nurses day and night.

There will also be a 24-hour crisis helpline for patients and carers, improved training for mental health workers and expansion of counselling services in health centres. A review of the Mental Health Act 1983 will lead to changes including provision for compulsion in the community.



> 'It does not mean patients being held down and forcibly injected over their kitchen tables'
> **Paul Boateng (above)**

Although ministers did not confirm speculation that up to £1 billion will be ploughed into the programme through the NHS and social services, Mr Boateng told mental health leaders in private comments that the funding, to be announced in the autumn, would be "the greatest investment any of you will have seen during your professional lifetimes".

The outline of the programme was set out by Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, in a letter to a new government advisory group setting national standards for mental health care. He called the approach a third way between care in the community and a return to the asylums.

Asserting that care in the community had failed, leaving vulnerable patients to cope on their own and a small but significant minority a danger to themselves and to the public, Mr Dobson promised a dramatic change that would bring security and support to all who needed it.

In an address to the group, Mr Boateng described the proposals as a safety-plus approach. He also hinted that the Government would call a halt to the stream of costly independent inquiries into killings by mental patients.

Later Mr Boateng told journalists that inquiries would be better conducted by NHS and social services inspectorates which would have the authority to ensure their recommendations were acted upon.

People, including relatives of those killed, were "fed up with what seems a long line of inquiries that say almost exactly the same things at great expense and to the great advantage of m'learned friends", he said.

The Government's proposals were broadly welcomed by mental health groups. Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of Sane, the schizophrenia charity, said: "It is essential that these new measures not only target those politically visible few who hit the headlines but provide a revolution in mental health care for everyone."

Jayne Zito, who founded the Zito Trust for people affected by killings by mental patients after the death of her husband, Jonathan, at the hands of Christopher Clunis, said: "The fact that the Government has been prepared to acknowledge that care in the community has failed, and to take some radical steps to put it right, is a great relief."

Judi Clements, chief executive of the charity Mind, said: "While public confidence needs to be restored — with secure provision for the minority who need it — any new law must provide fair chances and a full stake in the community for the vast majority of people with mental health problems who do not commit crimes and pose no risk."

But Roberta Graley, of the United Kingdom Advocacy Network, representing patient groups, said: "This hackneyed myth that we are all 'mad-axe murderers' or 'hopeless victims' is already responsible for our social exclusion and is being used to justify coercion in the community."



Project co-ordinator Alison Reeves, comforting a patient at a crisis house in Birmingham PHOTOGRAPH: LES BESFORD

Keeping patients out of hospital pays off for trust

David Brindle on a pioneering system that owes success to bed closures

WHEN the chief executive of Northern Birmingham Mental Health Services NHS trust first visited All Saints hospital, where some of the trust's patients were treated, he was appalled.

"I really would not have let a member of my family in there," says John Mahoney. "Our services were actually driving people away."

Northern Birmingham has pioneered the kind of comprehensive, integrated care that the Government wants to see develop across the country — even though it has meant closing hospital beds.

"The GPs much prefer this system and community leaders are much more involved with us now and supportive," says John Jenkins, the trust's director of operations. "They can see tangible results."

Among these results are a fall in the number of what the NHS euphemistically calls "serious incidents" involving mental patients and an even sharper fall in the number of suicides by them.

"The incidents in All Saints, when we had wards there, would involve attacks on staff and patients getting raped by people coming in off the street. It was out of control," says Mr Jenkins.

Those wards have gone, part of a net reduction of some 50 acute psychiatric beds operated by the trust in the past four years. Savings have been ploughed back into alternative services, including smaller in-patient units — being built under the private finance initiative — and two crisis houses staffed by former patients, where people can get care and support without hospital admission.

The trust's strategy, developed with social services, is based on three tiers of community teams. The first stage is provided by primary care liaison teams, which assess patients and deal with those requiring straightforward services.

In the second stage "assertive outreach" teams work with patients who have failed to engage with other forms of care and/or have persistently defaulted on medication.

In the third stage, home crisis teams move in to support patients in homes or hostels when they face relapse. The aim is to avoid the prospect of hospital admission, which, says Mr Jenkins, often "starts people on a downward spiral".

Viagra fever grips TV

Janine Gibson Media Correspondent

ALREADY combination of Viagra fever and the repeat-filled August schedules has caused a bitter battle between broadcasters vying to be the first to screen the story of the 'wonder drug'.

Thanks to swift scheduling, Channel 5 has emerged the victor, scooping ITV's World in Action by less than 24 hours. Channel 5's Viagracadabra has been pulled forward by a week to be shown on Sunday night, leaving its higher-budget rival, Viagra — The Hard Sell, trailing.

Viagracadabra, produced by independent production company Mentorn Barraclough Carey, "explores our views on sex through the impact of Viagra". It has been made for two-thirds of the cost of an average World In Action film.

Channel 5's acting director of programmes, Tim Gardam, admitted the channel has lower budgets than ITV but said: "We are fleet of foot and when we see an opportunity, we can make the most of it."

A spokesman for World In Action countered: "Channel 5 is obviously one of the five broadcasters, but it doesn't reach everybody in the country. World In Action will be the first national television programme to look at the issues surrounding the wonder drug Viagra."

The World in Action team is also preparing a one-off documentary for Sky 1 on the subject. Viagra — The Truth is provisionally scheduled for September, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

The BBC alone rose above the fray. "We are interested but have no firm plans," said a spokesman.

Channel 4's contribution will not be shown until the autumn, but will doubtless grab attention. The channel has commissioned an hour-long special, under the working title The Rise and Rise of Viagra, from the people that bought you Hollywood Women.

Big fuss, G2 front page

MI5 holds 500,000 files on individuals

Richard Norton-Taylor

MI5 holds nearly half a million files on individuals it has targeted since it was set up in 1909, Jack Straw disclosed yesterday.

Detailed figures on the number of files kept — and destroyed — by MI5 were revealed by the Home Secretary as the agency published a glossy brochure to dispel "myths and misunderstandings" about its activities.

Mr Straw made it clear that individuals targeted by MI5 because they were once considered potentially subversive would not have access to their files.

They include the Home Secretary himself, Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury and one-time general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties.

"I have no idea what happened to [my file]," Mr Straw said. "It has never caused me any worry." He was targeted when he was president of the National Union of Students between 1969 and 1971.

Of 440,000 individual files kept by MI5, 20,000 were "active", Mr Straw said. Of these, 7,000 relate to foreign nationals, including spies and terrorist group members. Another 13,000 identify British citizens, more than half connected with terrorism.

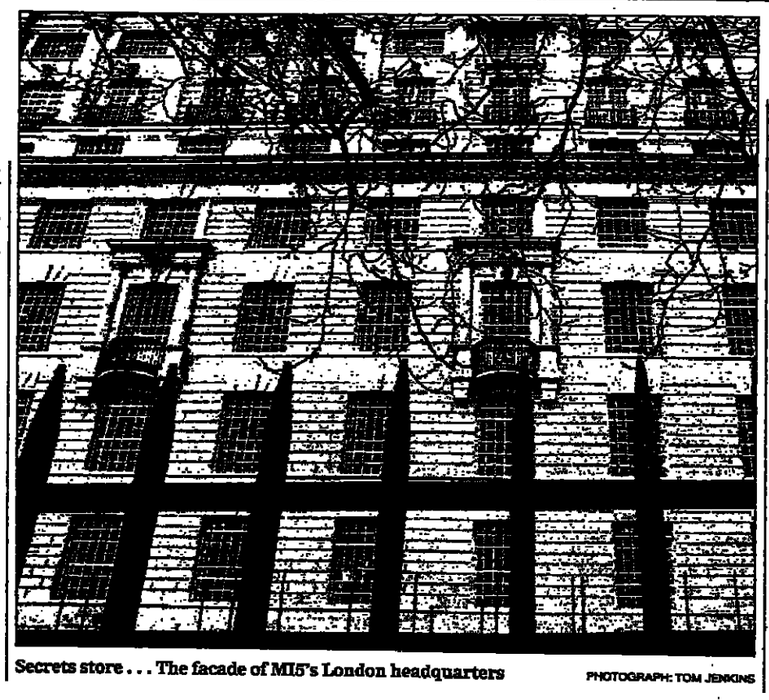
Past targets

Vladimir Ilych Lenin
Eamonn De Valera
Leon Trotsky
Jack Straw
Peter Mandelson
Arthur Scargill
Bruce Kent
Harriet Harman
Patricia Hewitt
Vanessa Redgrave

Other files contained information on organisations "studied" by MI5. Of the total, 230,000 files were on individuals no longer being investigated but were available to MI5 officers for current work.

Mr Straw's written parliamentary answer also reveals that MI5 had destroyed 285,000 files since it was set up — over 100,000 since the collapse of communism.

He said decisions on which files should be destroyed in future, and which retained for eventual release, was a matter for MI5 taking into account their "operational value" and "historical significance", as well as the requirement to retain all files opened since 1989 — the year the Security Service complaints tribunal was set up.



Secrets store . . . The facade of MI5's London headquarters PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Covert sights no longer set on subversives, claims agency

NEARLY a decade after the cold war ended MI5 no longer targets subversives, nor does it "kill people or arrange their assassination" or monitor the private lives of royal family members, ministers or MPs, the agency insisted yesterday.

It published a 53-page brochure, including a website address, to counter some of the more exotic claims made about the it and to improve its image by disclosing new details about its activities.

Only 0.3 per cent of its resources are now allocated to counter-subversion work, spent mainly on pensions for informers.

MI5 has never "systematically" targeted groups such as the National Union of Mineworkers and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the brochure says, but "subversive groups have in the past sought to infiltrate and manipulate such organisations".

Its budget is "less than £140 million" — with Northern Ireland-based terrorism the largest activity, accounting for 16 per cent of resources. MI5 says it is closely monitoring the 32 County Sovereignty Committee, which opposes the peace agreement.

It devotes only 12 per cent of its resources to counter-espionage, compared with about half during the cold war, though it says that after a lull in the early 1990s Russia has recently been sending more intelligence officers to London.

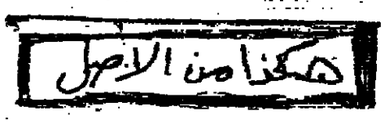
MI5 spends only 2 per cent of its budget helping police and customs to combat "serious crime".

Of its staff of about 1,900, 47 per cent are women and 54 per cent are aged under 40.

Stephen Lander, MI5's director general, says in an introduction that it does not take lightly its responsibilities for investigations which were "necessarily invasive" of individuals' privacy. The booklet insists MI5 does not tap telephones illegally.

MI5's website is http://www.mi5.gov.uk

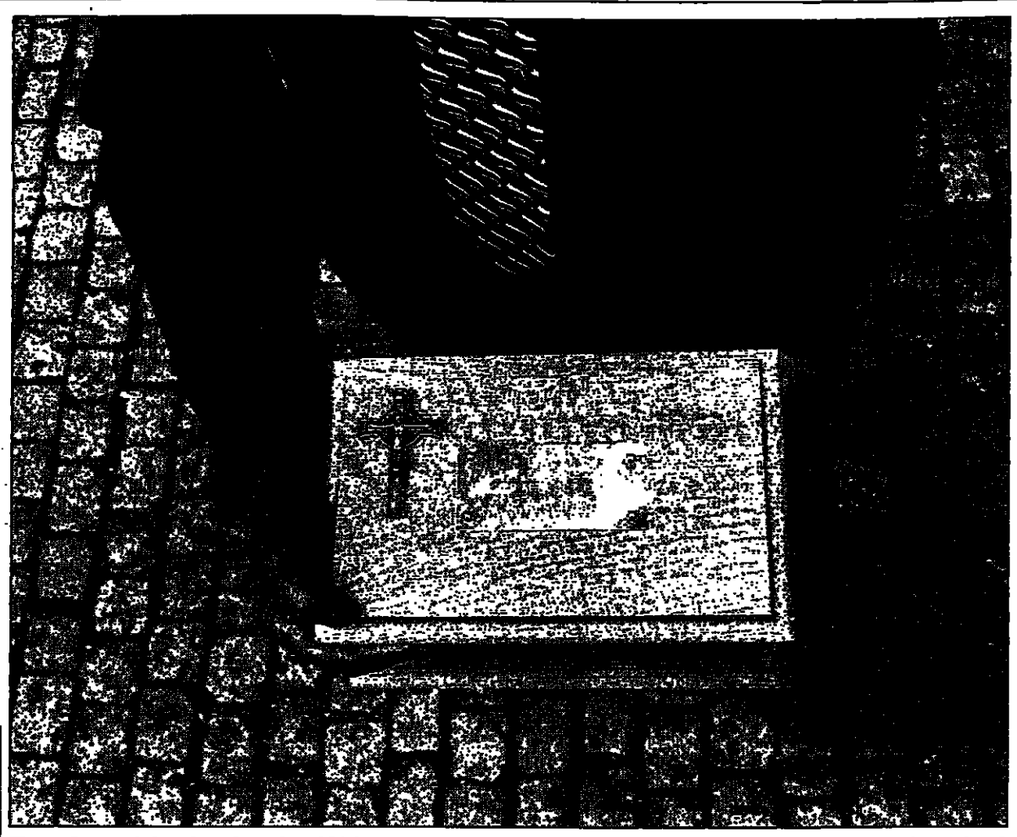


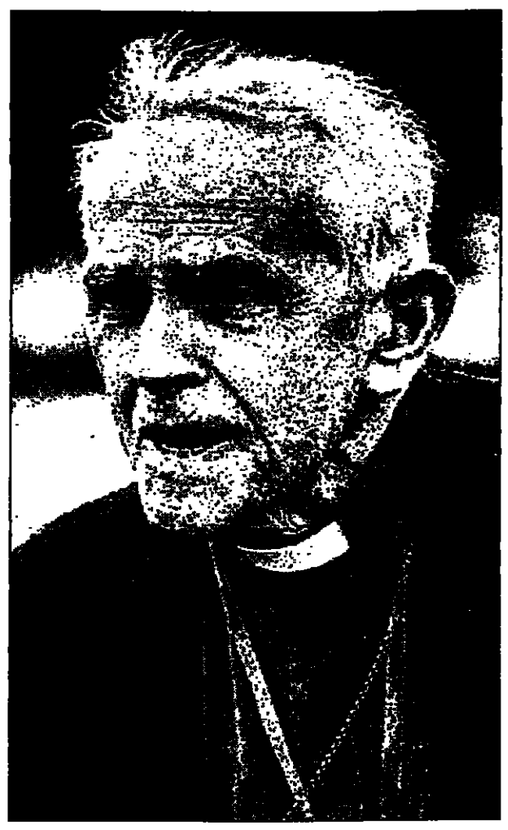




هكذا من الاصل

Farewell for a good friend of Africa





The cask containing the ashes of Archbishop Trevor Huddleston (right), which will be returned to South Africa, the place he called home MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

John Ezard on the memorial service for Trevor Huddleston, enemy of apartheid

WHEN Father Trevor Huddleston was forced out of his South African shanty parish 43 years ago he said it was "an agony almost beyond endurance" to have to leave.

"When people say 'I hear you are going home', I feel like saying 'Not at all'," he wrote. "England is no longer my home and never will be again. I am an African."

Yesterday Africa came to London to take its "heroic apostle" finally home. Three months after his death at the age of 84, it went to Westminster Abbey to pray and sing at his memorial service. Two African choirs sang together:

Farewell good friend
Until we meet again.
Farewell, sweet friend ...

Most of all, Africa was there to carry Huddleston's ashes back to Sophiatown, the one-time Johannesburg slum where he started to fight apartheid with a tongue and pen like swords tempered with love.

His book Naught for your Comfort flashed around the world in 1956. It was the text that began to swing Western opinion against racial segregation, "an affront to human dignity and an insult to God himself". After founding the international anti-apartheid movement and a lifetime of campaigning, first as a parish priest, then in exile, eventually as Archbishop of the Indian Ocean, Huddleston survived to vote triumphantly in South Africa's first democratic multi-racial election in 1994.

In a message to yesterday's 2,000-strong congregation, Nelson Mandela announced that his ashes would be flown to South Africa tonight. The South African president said he would receive them at Johannesburg airport. They would then be interred at the priest's Sophiatown church.

Three years ago Huddleston tried to re-settle in his beloved country. But his acute diabetes made this impossible. After three months he returned to live at the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield, Yorkshire, which he had joined as a priest in 1941.

Repeating words first spoken at a South African service honouring Huddleston, Mr Mandela said: "May we who gather in thanksgiving for his life be as ready as he to join hands across nations and continents in order to address the need of — especially — the poorest of the poor.

"May we show the same impatience with empty words which do not translate into action."

The abbey's official tally of mourners spoke volumes about his life. Some 183 human rights groups were represented, with 17 overseas ambassadors. Sixteen MPs and 14 peers attended, but only one government representative, Peter Mandelson. Even radical politicians were wary of Huddleston's urgency. "Words, words, words. I am sick with words," he used to tell them.

His celibate vocation meant only one relative was there — his niece Anne Parkinson, wife of the Tory minister Lord Parkinson. She read an extract in which Huddleston described how hunger marches had taught him at Oxford in the 1930s that "you cannot love the invisible God unless you find him in the brother whom you have seen".

The rest of the congregation were listed simply as "friends" — all 1,699 of them. One was Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker. She said: "I owe a lot to him, I owe him my Christian socialism."

The others were ordinary people, black and white, whom Huddleston knew or indirectly radicalised with four decades of impassioned argument. When he took orders, he was warned his greatest sacrifice would be to have no children. Yet legions of his spiritual children turned out to commemorate him.

They heard singing which fused traditional English anthems with jazzed-up village chants from black townships.

> He was warned his greatest sacrifice would be to have no children. Yet legions of his spiritual children came to commemorate him

The abbey choir's tribute was Vaughan Williams's setting of Milton's final lines in Samson Agonistes: "Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail; nothing but well and fair, and what may quiet us in a death so noble ..."

Then a South African quartet gathered round a microphone to sing Farewell Good Friend, a song written for Huddleston. They preceded it with a favourite Zulu lullaby, Chilon Chilo.

Three were the Manhattan Brothers, formed in the priest's Sophiatown days. They sang with the London South African Choir. Then Hugh Masekela blew an improvised solo from the pulpit.

It was informal but apt. "Clergymen of my generation were more influenced by Trevor than we were by the Beatles," said Huddleston's successor as Bishop of Stepney, Jim Thompson, now Bishop of Bath and Wells.

It was a send-off for a world figure, more widely influential than anyone else honoured in the abbey this decade.



Trumpeter Hugh Masekela and Archbishop Makhulu of Botswana attended the service at Westminster Abbey

Campaign to cut £43m cost of arson at schools

Vivek Chaudhary
Education Correspondent

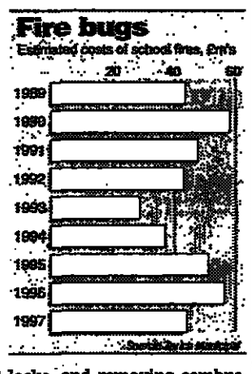
AN ARSON attack occurs in at least three schools every day, causing around £43 million of damage each year, according to a report published yesterday.

The Arson Prevention Bureau (APB) said the typical school arsonist was likely to be a former or current disgruntled pupil aged between 10 and 16. Most school fires were started between May and July, between 2pm and 3pm and 6pm and 10pm.

Secondary schools, which account for 15 per cent of all schools, were the targets of 44 per cent of the attacks, and 51 per cent were against primary schools.

The report, released to coincide with the launch of a campaign to help schools to prevent arson, said attacks reached a peak in 1989, when 2,261 fires were reported.



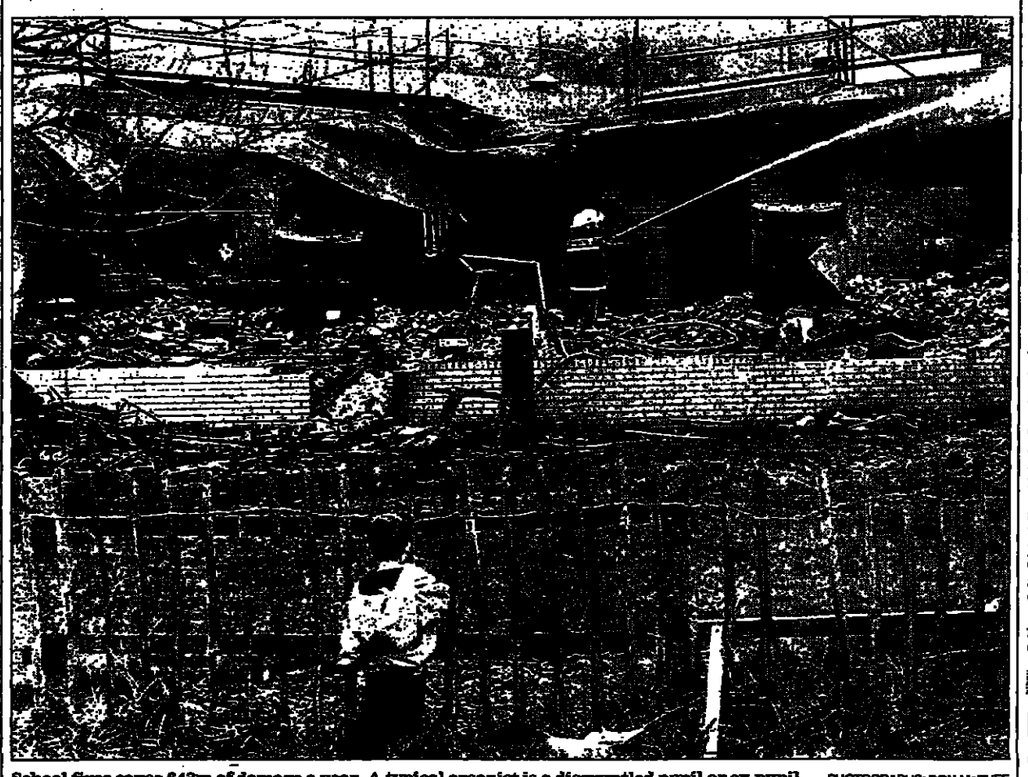


While fewer fires were reported in 1990, these caused a record £60 million of damage.

The latest figures, for 1996, show that Greater Manchester had the most attacks, 148, followed by London 141. The report said the true figures could be higher, as the fire brigade was called to only 45 per cent of fires and many went unreported. The cost of damage caused was enough to build 43 new schools.

The report and accompanying guidelines on how arson can be prevented are being sent to all schools in Britain. Among the measures suggested are setting up closed-circuit TV cameras, installing better perimeter fencing and locks, and removing combustible materials.

A spokeswoman for the APB, which is backed by the Home Office and the Association of British Insurers, said: "School arson is not that difficult to prevent. Most of the arsonists are not master criminals; they are bored, fed-up kids who don't like school."



School fires cause £43m of damage a year. A typical arsonist is a disgruntled pupil or ex-pupil PHOTOGRAPHS: DON McPHEE

Top soccer clubs 'failing disabled'

John Duncan
Sports Correspondent

BRITAIN'S top soccer clubs have failed in their duty to provide equal access for disabled supporters, says the Government's Football Task Force.

A report published yesterday by the task force, set up by the sports minister Tony Banks in July last year to examine football's relationship with supporters, shows that 90 per cent of Premiership clubs are ignoring government guidelines on access for disabled fans. The task force has recommended to the minister that the guidelines should be made law to force clubs to come up to a minimum standard.

"The aim of this report is to move away from a charity-driven approach to a customer-led approach, so that disabled fans have equal access to all facilities," said David Mellor, chairman of the task force. "The attitude in the past has been to see it as doing them some kind of favour."

The report expresses disappointment that clubs with big recent developments, such as Manchester United and Liverpool, have failed to take the opportunity to provide high quality facilities for disabled supporters.

"It is regrettable that new stands have been built in recent years, some part-funded by public money, that do not incorporate adequate access and facilities for disabled people," it says.

Mr Mellor highlighted Manchester United's £20 million North Stand, Liverpool's Centenary Stand and Southampton's Archer Road Stand, none of which have facilities for disabled fans.

"It's time for football to get its act together," he said. "We want disabled people to be enabled for the first time in football. There have been some terrible mistakes made. A number of new stands have been built without any wheelchair spaces."

Liverpool yesterday denied accusations that they had neglected disabled fans. "There is no discrimination at Anfield," said a spokesman. "We value our disabled fans and are committed to investing in their needs."

Liverpool say they have added 37 wheelchair spaces to the 44 already provided since the figures were compiled, a number which still leaves them 100 spaces below Green Guide recommendations.

The report also catalogues problems faced by disabled supporters, including confusion over ticketing, lack of toilets and quality of view. The task force heard that many disabled fans were placed at pitchside with the worst views in the ground.

One Everton fan with brittle bones who was placed at pitch level suffered a broken arm when the ball hit her.

A Leeds fan placed in the stands said she had never seen a goal at one end of Elland Road because whenever the ball went near the penalty area everyone in front of her stood up and blocked her view.

More modern stadiums praised in the report, such as those of Huddersfield and Northampton, provide raised platforms to eliminate the problem.

Bingham voices criticism of rape trial reforms

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, yesterday voiced senior judges' opposition to Jack Straw's proposed changes to rape trials.

The senior judge in England and Wales said the Home Secretary's plans to prevent defendants personally cross-examining their accusers brought the risk of juries wrongly acquitting rapists they felt had not had a fair trial.

Lord Bingham's warning, in an interview with the Times, follows criticism of the proposal last week by Lord Justice Judge, chairman of the Judicial Studies Board's criminal committee. In an interview with the Guardian he said the proposed ban raised questions about people's rights.

Lord Bingham implied that Mr Straw was overreacting on the basis of only two cases in which rapists had humiliated their victims by putting them through long and prurient questioning.

Everyone would agree there was a need to take the trauma out of giving evidence, he said. "But — and this is an important but — one does not do that at the expense of denying a defendant a fair trial." A defendant could not be forced to engage a lawyer, and those who represented themselves should be free to question witnesses.

Both judges pointed out that the Court of Appeal had already given guidance to judges to minimise the trauma for witnesses: if they stopped any questioning which was not relevant and which was deliberately humiliating the witness they would be backed by the court if the defendant appealed.

Lord Bingham backed controlled research into how juries react to judges' directions and whether they understand them.

Paisley's daughter wins job discrimination claim

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

THE daughter of Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley was yesterday awarded more than £24,000 for unlawful discrimination when she applied for a job with the Arts Council.

The Fair Employment Tribunal in Belfast ruled that Rhonda Paisley, aged 39, was discriminated against because of her religious beliefs and political opinions. She is a former DUP city councillor in Belfast.

She applied for the £21,000-a-year post of arts co-operation officer in 1994. It was appointed jointly by the Arts Councils in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. A Catholic got the job.

Ms Paisley, backed in her fight by the Fair Employment Commission, said the ruling was no compensation for losing out on the job.

The tribunal yesterday said she was the best candidate for the post. She is an artist, author and teacher.

Ms Paisley said: "It is very difficult for Protestants or those inclined to Unionism to be appointed to key positions in the arts in Northern Ireland. I hope this finding will encourage others to challenge those who control appointments when it is apparent that discrimination is rife in their ranks."

Ms Paisley, once lord mayor of Belfast during her eight years on council, has a reputation for independence, quitting her father's church after criticising it as too restrictive. She left local government in 1993, calling it an insult to the people of Northern Ireland, and concentrated on her work. She opened a gallery in Belfast later that year.

Bank's youngest manager denies bias against man

David Ward

THE youngest manager to be appointed by the Midland Bank denied yesterday that she had refused to promote a colleague and then sacked him because he was a man.

Andrew Gilbert, who was fired from his post as a junior clerk on New Year's Eve, had told an industrial tribunal that he was "hounded out" by Kathryn Downes, who was appointed manager of Midland's branch in Heywood, Greater Manchester, last October when she was 21.

Mr Gilbert, aged 23, claims sexual discrimination at the tribunal in Manchester.

Ms Downes, now 22, denied claims that she had watched Mr Gilbert like a hawk, singled him out for criticism and passed him over for promotion in favour of a woman.

She said he was not up to the job and had the wrong attitude. Another manager had decided to dismiss him because he lacked initiative and repeatedly made errors.

"At no time have I treated Andrew differently to other members of staff," she said. "Had any other members of staff displayed the same poor performance as Andrew, they would have been treated exactly the same way."

The tribunal heard that Ms Downes had joined the bank at 17 as a clerk and taken her first manager's job after completing a management training scheme.

Mr Gilbert said he was "shocked and astounded" when he was told he was being dismissed from his £12,000-a-year job and had not worked since.

He claimed Ms Downes was friendly with women staff but "rude and patronising" to him. He was the only staff member who had shown interest in promotion but the job was given to a woman.

Other staff had earlier told the tribunal that Mr Gilbert had always pulled his weight at work and was friendly and co-operative. He and Ms Downes "simply did not get on".

The hearing continues.

News in brief

Hun Sen threatens to govern alone

POLITICAL tensions rose in Cambodia yesterday as the second prime minister, Hun Sen, shrugged off threats by opposition groups to stage protests in support of their claims of fraud in Sunday's elections. Hun Sen warned that he was prepared to *rule without the other parties.*

Opposition leaders Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy are trying to persuade the political parties that contested the elections to challenge the results. The two have already said their parties will not take up any seats they win in the national assembly, threatening to paralyse its proceedings and precipitate a constitutional crisis.

Hun Sen, basking in the international endorsements of the election, is taking a similar tough line. If the opposition did not co-operate, he said, he would push through constitutional changes lowering the size of the majority he needs to convene the assembly and would govern without them. The full result is not due until the weekend but partial results show Hun Sen's party leading in 10 provices and Prince Ranariddh's Funcinpec party in only two. — *Nick Cumming-Bruce, Phnom Penh.*

UN agency failings denied

THE United Nations refugee agency, responding to a report that it is losing millions of pounds because of bad management, said yesterday that its overall performance was good despite some "problems". The *Financial Times, using its own research and that* of independent auditors, accused the UN High Commissioner for Refugees of "serious failings" in financial management and said incompetent management, dubious accounting and possibly fraud were costing the agency millions of pounds.

Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the agency, dismissed the report as "mistaken and inaccurate". He added: "We sometimes have to bend or even break the rules in the name of helping people quickly." — *AP, Geneva.*

China stamps on e-mail help

CHINESE authorities have arrested a computer engineer for providing 30,000 Chinese e-mail addresses to an online democracy magazine based in the *United States*, a human rights group said yesterday. *Lin Hai*, the 30-year-old founder of a software company in Shanghai, was arrested on charges of inciting the overthrow of state power, the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said. Conviction generally carries a penalty of up to five years' imprisonment.

Mr Lin's arrest highlights the Communist Party's determination to prevent use of the Internet to challenge its authority and to maintain strict control over information. — *AP, Beijing.*

Asthma lays Rev Jackson low

A SERIOUS asthma attack after a rally put the Rev Jesse Jackson in a Chicago hospital at the weekend, his doctor, Elsie Walker, said. The 56-year-old civil rights leader, who has been treated for asthma in the past, was reported to be in good condition yesterday. — *AP, Chicago.*

Plane stowaway found alive

A MAN was found half-frozen but alive at New Tokyo airport yesterday clinging to the landing gear of a Northwest Airlines jumbo jet that arrived from China. The man, believed to be 23 years old, was reported to be in a critical condition.

He had been frozen so severely during the three-hour flight that police had to prise him loose. An airport spokesman expressed surprise that the man had survived in a non-pressurised part of the plane at altitudes of more than 33,000 ft. — *AP, Tokyo.*

Row unfurls over Union Flag

QUEENSLAND'S controversial One Nation MPs marked their first day in the state parliament by triggering a furious row with the Labour party over its plans to stop flying the Union Flag outside the parliament building.

The new Labour government said that, instead, the flag of every country would be flown on its national day. The state premier, Peter Beattie, said the scheme would send the message that Queensland was an open and accepting state.

But One Nation members said MPs still pledged their loyalty to the Crown *and the flag should stay. "It's a disgrace and an insult* to the Queen," said Peter Prenzler. "We'll do whatever we can to make sure it stays there." — *Christopher Zinn, Sydney.*

Knight of the sharp knives

A MOCK medieval battle in the Latvian town of Cesis, north-east of Riga, turned a little too authentic when a knight switched his blunted knife for a real one and plunged it into the chest of an opponent, the Baltic News Service reported yesterday. Gatis Indrevics, aged 18, was in intensive care. — *AP, Riga.*

Fallout from the Lewinsky deal

Clinton's nemesis closes in

THE HUNTER/ An obsessive with a personal vendetta or a good man in search of truth? Martin Kettle on the lawyer who has spent four years and £25 million on his case

FOR such a mild-mannered man, Kenneth Starr triggers violent and contradictory opinions. His admirers say that he is simply a painstaking lawyer who is using every legitimate avenue *to do the job given to him* by the attorney-general, Janet Reno. His detractors say he is a politically-motivated inquisitor who cannot see the wood for the trees and who does not care if he tears up some of America's most cherished liberties *to get his man.*

Either way, both sides agree that Mr Starr is not a man who gives up easily. The ambitious and conservative law professor has spent four years trying — and mostly failing — to prove that Bill *Clinton is a crook. The bill for* his investigations runs to well over £25 million. But he keeps probing, and this week, after securing an evidence-for-immunity deal with Monica Lewinsky, he may be on the verge of getting what he has been seeking for so long.

Mr Starr's tracking of Bill and Hillary Clinton has been remorseless. When he first took over as special prosecutor from Robert Fiske four summers ago, his investigations centred on whether the Clintons were involved in a series of fraudulent loans and property deals during their Arkansas years.

Since then, he has taken his team into more recent scandals such as the White House travel office sackings, the misuse of FBI files on the Clintons' political opponents and, now, the exact nature of the Clinton-Lewinsky liaison.

Four years later, Mr Starr shows so little sign of fatigue that his supporters are increasingly convinced that he is on to something, and his detractors are sure that he is in it for political reasons alone.

Starr has had his successes in nailing some of the supporting characters in the Clintons' complex financial and personal affairs. Two *years ago, when he finally got* convictions against their close friends James and Susan McDougall on 24 Whitewater-related charges, it looked as though his persistent probings might finally reach inside the White House.

But it was not to be, and ever since Mr Clinton's re-election in 1996, Mr Starr has appeared to be an investigator increasingly in search of an investigation.

This time last year, he was almost a forgotten man and *there was talk that his work* would be wound up some time last winter. His subsequent judicial hounding of Clinton friends such as Ms McDougall and Webster Hubbell has seemed more like vindictive obsession than a clear-sighted investigation.

All that changed when Linda Tripp, a Pentagon public relations official who had worked in the White House under both Mr Clinton and George Bush, came to his office in January with 20 hours of tapes which appeared to show that the president had lied to Paula Jones's lawyers about his affair with Lewinsky, and that both he and his friend Vernon Jordan had put pressure on the former intern to lie about it. Ms Jones had accused the president of sexual harassment.

Ms Tripp's information reinvigorated Mr Starr's faltering probe. By co-operating with Ms Jones's lawyers, who were due to take oral evidence from Mr Clinton in Washington on January 17, Mr Starr took the president by surprise with a pincer movement designed to force him into further denials which Ms Tripp's evidence could then discredit.

Since then, the focus of Mr Starr's work has shifted increasingly to Ms Lewinsky.

The Whitewater grand jury in Arkansas was quietly wound up in early May without bringing any charges against its main focus, Hillary Clinton, while the Jones case was thrown out by a Little Rock judge.

A majority of Americans, enjoying good economic times under a successful president, continue to believe that the Starr investigation is too much *ado about too little. In* the end, a cautious Congress may decide to do nothing very serious about his findings.

But Mr Starr has never allowed himself to be put off by unpopularity in the past, and shows little sign of allowing *that to happen now.*



Legal team plays it safe as aides urge 'tell all' strategy

THE DILEMMA/ Divisions deepen at the White House as advisers plan Bill Clinton's next move after the Whitewater prosecutor placed him in check in the ultimate political chess game. Mark Tran reports

THERE has always been a split between President Clinton's legal team and his political advisers, but this has assumed gulf-like proportions in the past few days. The White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, has alluded to this, and many advisers believe that Mr Clinton should use his formidable powers of persuasion to come clean, tell all and spare everyone six months of Chinese water torture.

"Most people think we've probably done the right thing," Mr McCurry said. "But we've spent day and night for six months engulfed in this mess."

Some of Mr Clinton's supporters still think the president should emulate Richard Nixon and speak on national television, throwing himself on the mercy of the American public. The outlines of such a speech are doing the rounds in Washington: "I made a mistake in not telling the truth, but my first instinct was to protect myself and my family from over-zealous investigators."

This is the course advocated by Democrats such as the former White House aide George Stephanopoulos. They believe that such an admission would steal the Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr's thunder once Mr Clinton goes before the grand jury and turns on the charm.

The minority leader in the House of Representatives, Richard Gephardt, has also been a vocal advocate of the "come clean" strategy. The Democrats have a slim chance of recapturing Con*gress from the divided* Republicans in the November mid-term elections, but they fear that if Mr Clinton continues to stonewall, he will be blamed for dragging out the scandal.

But the signs are that Mr Clinton will stick to his version of events if questioned by Mr Starr's prosecutors. One White House insider dismissed the idea that Mr Clinton should emulate Nixon as "pure speculation" *and highly unlikely.* The betting is that Mr Clinton will testify in some form, in itself a concession by his legal team, led by the formidable David Kendall, to political realities.

On legal grounds, Mr Kendall would be justified in keeping Mr Clinton from Mr Starr's investigators. Legal scholars are adamant *that a client should not ap*pear before a grand jury without knowing what the opposition has up its sleeve.

Many lawyers would advise someone in Mr Clinton's predicament to avoid testifying, either by moving to quash Mr Starr's subpoena or by citing the constitutional right to shun self-incrimination. But such a move is considered political suicide.

While the president faces terrible options, difficult choices confront the Republicans too. No one knows what Mr Starr's final report will contain.

His staff have drafted large chunks of the report. These include Mr Starr's initial duty as independent counsel to investigate the Clintons' investment in the failed Whitewater land deal in Arkansas. Other portions cover the firing of the White House travel office staff and the suspected use of sensitive FBI files by White House personnel.

The report is to go before the House of Representatives judiciary committee. Its chairman, Henry Hyde, has said that the panel is ready to receive it. But he warned that some of his fellow Republicans did not want this brought up before the election.

"You don't want to start something you can't finish," Mr Hyde said.

But any judiciary committee hearings would depend on the gravity of the charges.

"If Starr's case is no more than a sexual dalliance between two consenting adults, I would be surprised if there would be more than *just tut-tutting,"* said Stephen Hess of the Brookings Institution think-tank in Washington. "The far right might want to go after Clinton, but most of the party would tamp that down."

If the charges reveal a pattern of obstruction of justice stretching back to the Whitewater deal, the Republicans would have to consider impeachment, a move that could rebound if *Mr Clinton continued to en*joy public support.

One scenario Democrats dread is that the Republicans drag out impeachment proceedings well into next year, tarnishing the Democratic Party and preparing the ground for the Texas governor, George Bush jr, to conquer the White House.

What the pundits say

VOICES OF AMERICA/ Commentators and leader writers weigh up the options

Walter Shapiro
USA Today
For Clinton, his grand jury testimony will be the gravest character test of his life. Will he tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth... or cynically mock the judicial process by resorting to evasions, convenient memory lapses and flagrant untruths?

If Lewinsky is now telling the truth, can the American people forgive a president who acknowledges a sexual dalliance and admits to lying in an effort to cover it up?

As a patriotic American, I hope so. For the alternative is *far worse: a bitter and div*isive impeachment fight sure to sully the final days of the 20th century.

Leader comment
New York Times
But if Mr Clinton wants to use the 29 months left to him to grab for something memorable, how must he begin? The first task, of course, is to correct any perjured statements he may have made.

There is a danger of... starting a drumbeat for resignation. But... it is hard to imagine a grand jury or the House of Representatives denying a contrite President one chance to correct his testimony on a matter not related to national security.

If he can *step free of* legal trouble, including obstruction of justice, Mr Clinton can tackle the task of doing something positive with his remaining days in office. That would involve a full, ungrudging, verifiable explanation to the American people about what has gone on with regard to Ms Lewinsky and the other matters under investigation.

Alan Dershowitz
Los Angeles Times
We are now confronted, therefore, with the great constitutional question of whether a sitting president can be indicted by a grand jury and tried by a petit jury in a criminal court or whether the only recourse is impeachment by the House and trial by Senate.

The only proper function for a grand jury is to gather and consider the evidence leading towards a criminal indictment or refusal to indict. It is absolutely improper for an independent counsel... to use the grand jury process... to obtain evidence to turn over to Congress for purposes of considering impeachment... The president should challenge the subpoena from Starr's grand jury on the ground that he is not properly the target of a grand jury proceeding, since a sitting president cannot be indicted.

Tom Lindberg
Washington Times
Bill Clinton has had to deal with scandal throughout his career and he's getting pretty good at it. And one thing I think he understands especially well is — what shall we call it? — information management. Let's go over some of its basic principles.

Rule No 1: *You owe no one an explanation. You are the president.*

Rule No 2: *Your underlings don't need to know what happened in order to defend you.*

Rule No. 3: *Complete knowledge is unnecessary for the completion of most tasks you assign.*

Rule No 4: *Your priorities are your own business.*

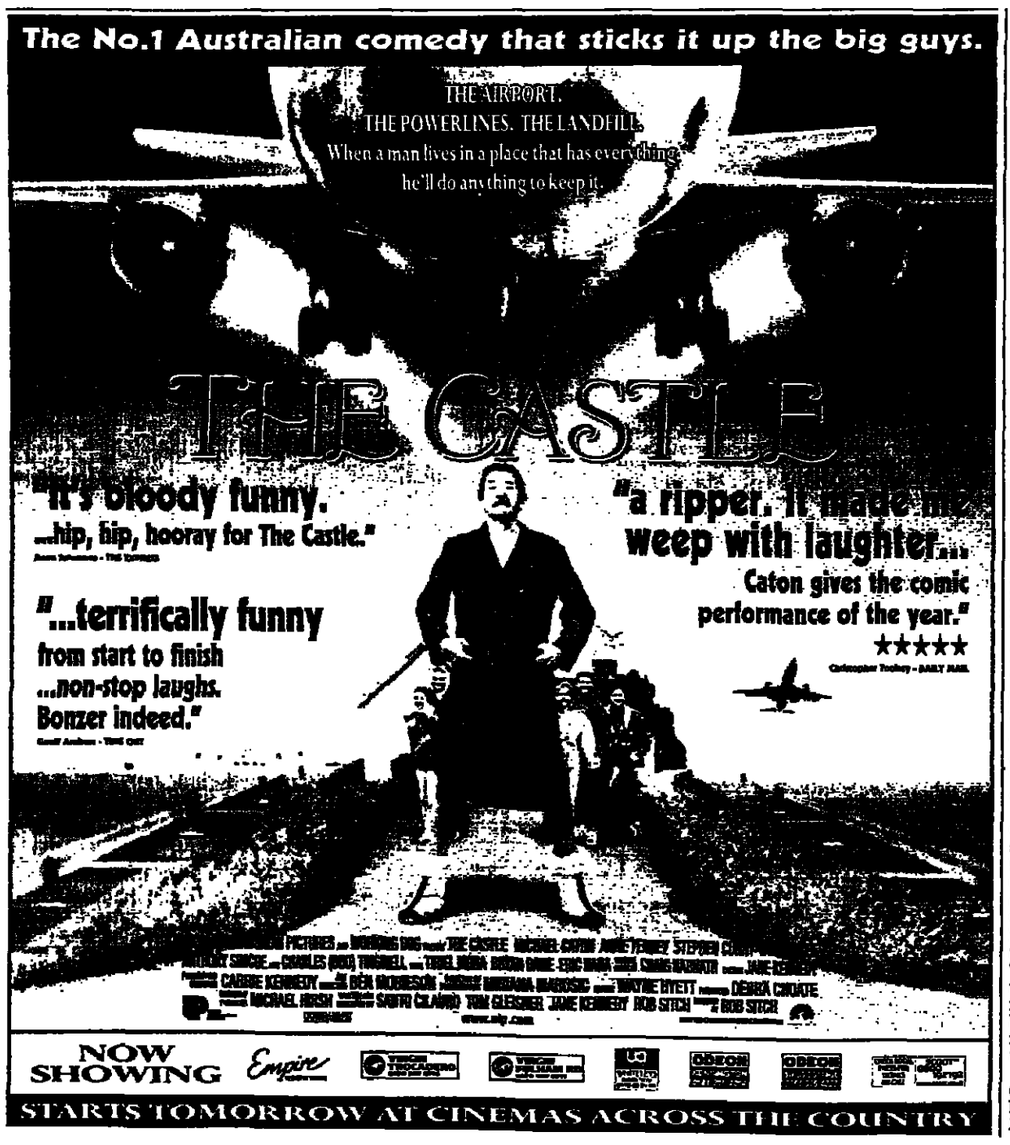
Rule No 5: *People will learn to take your hint.*

Rule No 6: *The more people close to you are allowed to know, the more you will expect of them.*

Rule No 7: *Only you know.*

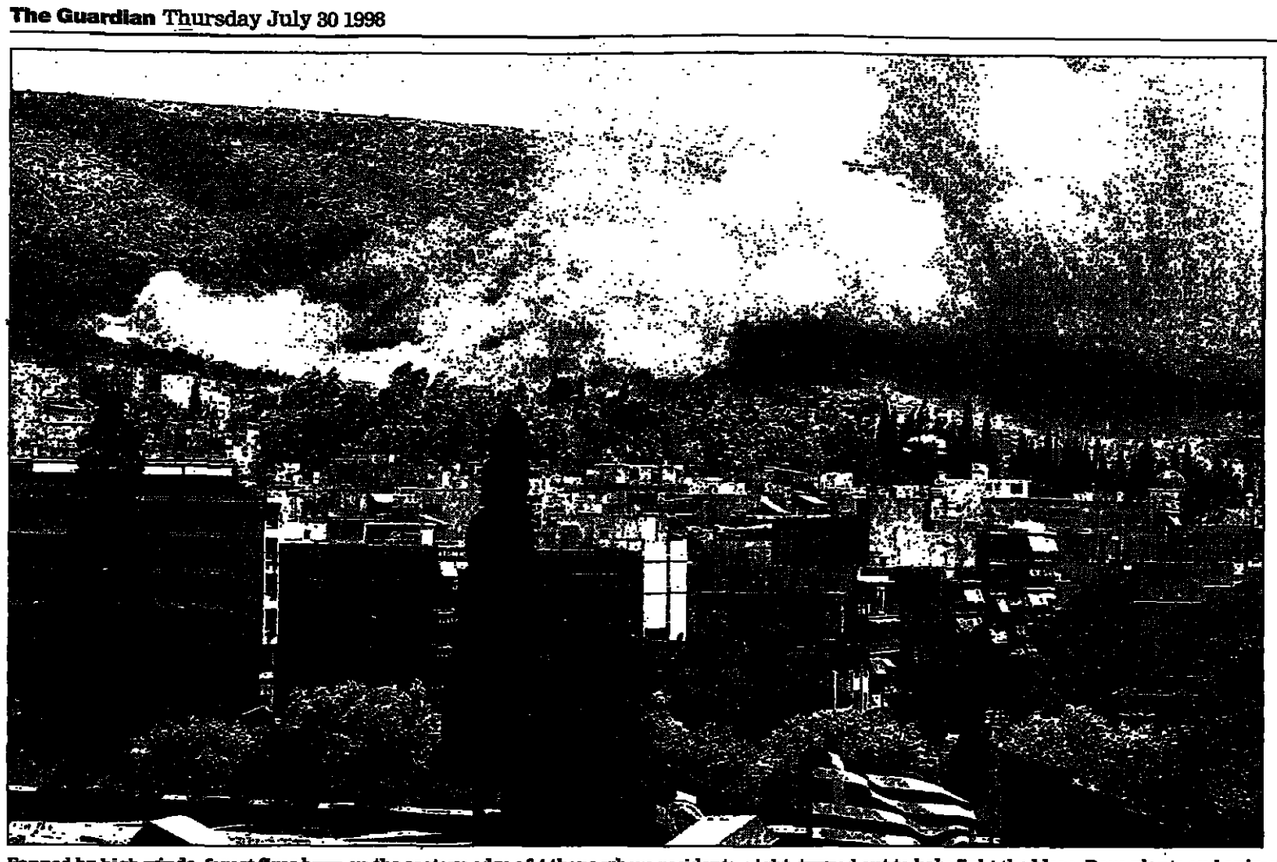
Bill Press
CNN's Crossfire
OK. So Mr Clinton had sex with Monica Lewinsky. So what? OK. So Mr Clinton had sex with Monica Lewinsky and denied it. So what? If so, that's a matter for Bill and Hillary. Not for Ken Starr. Having sex is not a crime. Not even — especially not — in Washington DC. And lying about sex, even under oath, as *long as it's between consent*ing adults, has never been prosecuted.

But that's the bottom line. That's all it boils down to. That's Mr Starr's magnum opus. Four years. Over $40 million. Three grand juries. Hundreds of investigators and prosecutors. To charge the President of the United States with having an affair and denying it. Never has so much time and so much money been spent on something so trivial. For Mr Starr, that's no victory. That's a colossal embarrassment.



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Fanned by high winds, forest fires burn on the eastern edge of Athens where residents, right, turned out to help fight the blaze. Rare plants and animals are under threat from the advancing flames PHOTOGRAPHS: DIMITRI MESSINIS/LOUISA GOULIAMAKI

Developers blamed for Greek fires

Helena Smith in Athens

ARSON by property developers has been blamed for Greece's worst-ever forest fires, which are raging through vast areas of the country for a second week and have already devoured some 400,000 acres, including some of southern Europe's richest coniferous forests.

"Fires have been reported at 180 spots nationwide which is unprecedented," said George Romaios, the public order minister. "Many have erupted on several fronts at the same time and that leaves us in no doubt that they were started deliberately."

The arson theory has been reinforced by the discovery of fireworks and sophisticated time bombs in remote forest areas. Greek police said some "pyromaniacs" had been arrested recently and others had been spotted driving into woodlands and throwing fireworks from their cars.

Environmentalists say Greece's lack of forest tenure maps and a land registrar had whetted the appetite of arsonists in the pay of property developers. Once cleared, land is grabbed by speculators who often build on the scorched earth within weeks. The illegal constructions are invariably legalised by politicians.

"This is a phenomenon that goes back to just after the second world war when people were very poor and the dream of every Greek family was to own a home," said Aristotelis Papageorgiou, forest officer at the Greek branch of the World Wide Fund for Nature. "Much of the land that is being burnt now is very valuable. It's no coincidence that the mountains around Athens have been targeted. Mount Parnitha is where the 2004 Olympic Games village will be built ... we're talking about long-term investors here."

The agriculture minister, Stefanos Tzoumakas, has supported accusations that the forestry service has been actively concealing instances of "land grabbing" in burnt-out forest areas. "They [foresters] are acting like a state within a state," he said.

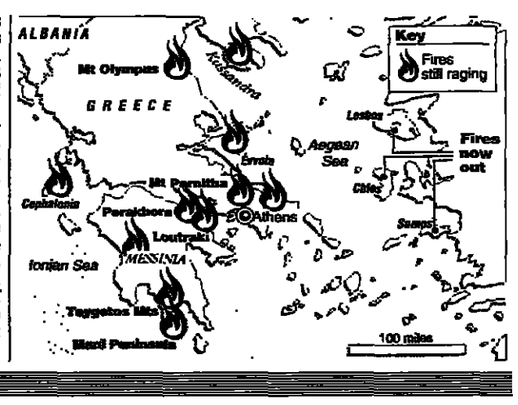
But the Socialist government has also been criticised for switching the responsibility for fire-fighting from the forestry service to the fire brigade in May. "These fires are testimony to a complete lack of co-ordination that now exists as a result of that switch," Mr Papageorgiou said. "The fire brigade ... has no experience with wild fires and, my God, do we know it."

Last week three firemen and a volunteer died in a forest fire outside Athens.

And this week the Temple of Apollo at Delphi came close to being reduced to cinders.

"More land, olive groves and orchards have been burnt this year than at any other time and we are only half way through the summer season," said Mr Papageorgiou. "Worst of all, the black pine forest on Mount Taygetos is now ablaze." The forest is home to more than 160 Greek endemic plant species and 36 internationally endangered species of fauna.

Fire-fighting has been hampered by gale-force winds. With vast swathes of Greece now a wasteland of withered trees dotted with the charred carcasses of wild animals, growing numbers of people have been forced to leave their homes. And thousands of tourists have abandoned hotels in the seaside resort of Loutraki as the inferno creeps towards the ancient city of Corinth.



Former minister gets 10 years for role in dirty war

Adela Gooch in Madrid

SPAIN'S supreme court yesterday sentenced a former Socialist interior minister and his deputy to 10 years in prison for their part in the so-called "dirty war" fought against the Basque separatist group ETA.

The guilty verdict is a politically explosive conclusion to a trial seen as a key test of Spanish democracy. The court ruled that José Barrionuevo, who was interior minister in Spain's first Socialist government after the death of General Franco, and his deputy, Rafael Vera, were guilty of kidnapping and misappropriating public funds.

But the court cleared them of wider charges that they set up the shadowy Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups known as GAL, which between 1983 and 1987 were responsible for 28 deaths of suspected ETA activists, a third of whom later proved to be unconnected to the rebels.

It is the first time in Spanish history that a former minister has been sentenced to prison. The verdict is a severe blow to the Socialist Party and, in particular, to its former long-serving prime minister Felipe González, who is said to have set his sights on the presidency of the European Commission.

The ruling split the 11-judge court along political lines with four judges close to the Socialist Party openly contesting the sentence. Barrionuevo and Vera, who have argued that they are the innocent victims of a political vendetta waged to oust the Socialists from power, said yesterday they would appeal to the higher constitutional court. August is a judicial holiday in Spain and the men are unlikely to be jailed before September.

Ten other officials and policemen, all of whom admitted their involvement in the 1983 kidnapping of a Basque businessman, Segundo Marey, who was taken for a member of ETA, held for 10 days and then released, were also found guilty. They received sentences of between two and 10 years. The court also barred Barrionuevo, who is a Socialist MP, and Vera from holding public office for 12 years. It ordered the 12 defendants to pay Mr Marey 30 million pesetas (£120,000) in compensation.

The trial, the first involving the GAL to touch the top levels of power, has divided Spaniards between those who feel there can be no exceptions to the rule of law and those who argue that a dirty war was justified at a time when ETA was killing up to 80 people a year.

The hearing revealed few new facts. The lower-level officials incriminated their two superiors, basing their defence on the grounds that they were obeying orders.

Polls carried out during the trial showed that a majority of Spaniards believed that Barrionuevo and Vera were guilty but that they should not be jailed.

The two men insisted yesterday they would not ask for a pardon because that would carry an admission of guilt. "I will go to prison with my head held high," said Vera. But under Spain's legal system, a pardon may be requested on their behalf.

Even the GAL's harshest critics have balked at the thought of a former minister in Spain's relatively young democracy going to jail, especially as many consider Barrionuevo a political scapegoat for Mr González.

Spain's conservative prime minister, José María Aznar, will come under strong pressure to orchestrate a pardon. The Socialists have issued veiled threats to reveal details of anti-terrorist actions carried out before they were in power if Barrionuevo and Vera go to jail.



José Barrionuevo: Found guilty of kidnapping

Kosovo pact raises hopes for talks

Ismet Hajdari in Pristina

THE leading Albanian politician in Kosovo said yesterday he had reached a compromise with other ethnic Albanians on forming a coalition government in a development which would be a big step towards securing peace talks on the future of the rebellious Yugoslav province.

Ibrahim Rugova gave no details of the plan except that it would include "all political forces" and "create pre-conditions for a dialogue" with the Serb-led Yugoslav government. He did not specify whether the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which is fighting for independence and has rejected Mr Rugova's leadership, would be included.

His announcement followed a Serb offensive launched at the end of last week which has succeeded in regaining control of key areas of the province from the KLA.

Albanian language media have speculated that Mr Rugova will offer the KLA the defence and interior ministries, giving it control of the provincial police.

Although Yugoslavia would probably not recognise Mr Rugova's "government", it could form the basis for an ethnic Albanian team to negotiate the status of the province with Yugoslavia's president, Slobodan Milosevic.

Arranging such talks has been the goal of United States and European diplomats since Mr Milosevic launched a bloody crackdown on Albanian militants in February.

Albanians form 90 per cent of the province's 2 million population.

Before his announcement, Mr Rugova met a European Union delegation which is in Kosovo as part of the latest international effort to halt the bloodshed.

"We cannot tolerate the increasing amount of victims, the destruction, the refugee situation," said Albert Rochan, the Austrian delegation leader. He called for an immediate end to the fighting.

The EU delegation, which also includes German and British diplomats, arrived as US officials said an American effort to forge a broad-based Albanian negotiating team was starting to bear fruit.

The inability of the Albanians to agree on the composition of a negotiating team has been a major stumbling block to international efforts to resolve the conflict. — *AP.*

Tests show no proof of 'miracle' cure

John Hooper in Rome and Sarah Boseley

CONTROVERSY about a claimed "miracle" cure for cancer showed no sign of abating in Italy yesterday despite official test results indicating that not a single patient had responded to the treatment.

Luigi Di Bella, the doctor who devised the supposed cure, last night accused authorities of rigging the trials to get the results they wanted. "My method has not been tested. My drugs have not been used," he said. His lawyers said they would ask the courts to find out which drugs had been administered.

The "Di Bella cure" has been the subject of national debate since Italy's drugs safety board refused to approve it last August. Several judges ordered their local health authorities to make the treatment available free of charge; tens of thousands of people joined demonstrations in support of patients' right to choose; and their cause was taken up by the far-right National Alliance.

As the news of the treatment spread, Dr Di Bella's home at Modena in the north of Italy was besieged by cancer sufferers and their relatives seeking a prescription.

The treatment, which involves a cocktail of drugs and vitamins, had long been available to private patients but was costly. Six months ago, after a ruling from the constitutional court, the government reluctantly began subsidising the treatment's key component.

But according to Professor Gordon McVie, head of the Cancer Research Campaign and one of several foreign medical experts invited to observe the trials, the "cure" is not merely ineffective but harmful.



Dr Luigi Di Bella: Was besieged by patients seeking cancer cure

"Of the 136 patients in the trials, over 100 are dead or the tumour has progressed," he said. "A few patients are still stable, but there is no measurable response in any of the patients at all after two months of treatment. This is the usual form of test for a new drug."

He added that the Di Bella cocktail had proved to be toxic, which he had not expected.

"There was a lot of vomiting, weepiness and somnolence [drowsiness]. Some had abdominal pain and diarrhoea. That is fairly disturbing. It is not likely to have been entirely disease-related. Advanced cancer causes problems, but I suspect a lot of this was not caused by the disease."

The first four trials were on patients with advanced cancer of the breast, head and neck and bowel. The patients included some chosen on compassionate grounds. A third were already in a critical condition.

The government said its tests had shown that 49 per cent had suffered side effects. In three cases out of five, the side effects were serious.

Among those unconvinced by the test results was Carlos Madaro, the district judge of a small town in southern Italy, who became known nationally after ordering the treatment to be given free.

"I personally know of patients who have been given this therapy for some time and who have recovered their health," he said.

In a macabre coincidence, the first patient for whom he ordered free treatment, a two-year-old boy from near Lecce, died at about the time he was speaking.

Satirist hands NF poll reprieve

Jon Henley in Paris

FRANCE'S constitutional council yesterday annulled a by-election in which the far-right National Front lost its only parliamentary seat, on the grounds that voters could have been influenced by a comment from a television show host on polling day.

The decision to overturn the narrow victory of the leftwing candidate, Odette Casanova, in the June run-off in the Mediterranean port of Toulon means the city's voters will have to go to the polls for the third time in just over a year to elect their MP.

Ms Casanova unexpectedly defeated the National Front candidate, Cendrine Le Chevallier, by 33 votes in one of the Front's traditional strongholds.

Ms Le Chevallier was put forward by her husband Jean-Marie Toulon's mayor, who won the seat in the general election last year but was later barred from parliament by the constitutional council for campaign finance irregularities.

This time, the council decided that satirist Karl Zéro — a critic of the Front — had broken a rule banning political propaganda broadcasts from the day before an election until polls close.

His brief, ambiguous comment was made during his Vrai Journal show on pay-TV station Canal+ on June 1, election day.

Mr Zéro said: "In Toulon, Adriano [assumed to be a reference to the ordinary people of Toulon] has forgotten that National Front voters will not be sleeping in all day. So it would be a good thing if Adriano were to get up, wash his feet and head off very quickly to the nearest polling booth."

The council concluded that this constituted "electoral propaganda". But it underlined that Ms Casanova was not responsible for the breach and was free to stand in the new election.

Anger over lost Nazi gold files

Denis Staunton in Berlin

GERMAN Jews yesterday demanded an official investigation into the disappearance of documents detailing how much gold the Nazis stole from Holocaust victims.

A joint report by the Bundesbank and the state archive in Koblenz revealed that crucial files may have been destroyed during the 1970s, making it impossible to determine exactly how much the Nazis stole and from whom.

Michel Friedman, a member of the board of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, described the Koblenz archive as "a Bermuda Triangle" and insisted that the official who made the decision about the files should be traced.

Among the missing documents are the so-called "Melmer files", named after Bruno Melmer, an SS officer who kept a register of gold stolen from concentration camp inmates. Holocaust victims entering the death camps were forced to hand over jewellery and other valuables. In some cases, gold fillings were removed from their teeth.

Mr Friedman rejected the suggestion that archivists may have destroyed the files 20 years ago because they were unaware of their significance, and criticised the relaxed official approach to their disappearance.

Research in United States archives has revealed that the Nazis kept a careful record of their plunder. The 26 missing folders from the Melmer files could have formed the basis of claims from Holocaust victims for restitution.

Allied authorities confiscated the files from the Reichsbank after the second world war but gave them to the German central bank in 1948.

The report issued yesterday insists there is no evidence that the files were destroyed because they were "documents of an uncomfortable memory".



Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

YOU will have noticed yesterday's leading article about Lord Stoddart of Swindon, who has been fighting a gutsy one-peer campaign against the over-familiarity in the *NHS, whereby nurses* address patients by their first names. Lord Stoddart is an absolute stickler for form, and as our leader made clear, rightly so. For this first name nonsense is very vexing — not least, some will feel, in broadcasting. Take the incident a couple of years ago on a radio phone-in about Jack Straw's thoughtful speech on squeegee merchants. One elderly man, who should have known better, rang in calling himself simply *David from Swindon*, and agreed most vehemently with Mr Straw about those vile spongers before letting slip that he had once been approached at traffic lights himself as he drove to the House of Lords. "Hang on," said the presenter. "who exactly are you?" It was then, as you will have guessed, that the noble Lord Stoddart ashamedly came clean. One rule for the wireless, it seems, Stodgy, old man, and quite another for the bedpans.

NOTHING pains the Diary so much as when two old friends fall out, especially when the health of one of them is placed in serious jeopardy. In this case, Michael Winner has committed the gravest libel against Charles Bronson, Her Majesty's most bearded and dangerous house guest whom Michael has described in the News of the World as "a murderer". Despite a penchant for taking hostages, Charles is no such thing. "I misjudged him," Michael tells. "I read in the Sunday Times that he was a murderer and printed it myself. I can't think of anyone I'd less rather offend. Ha ha ha ha." Laugh now, Michael. While you can.

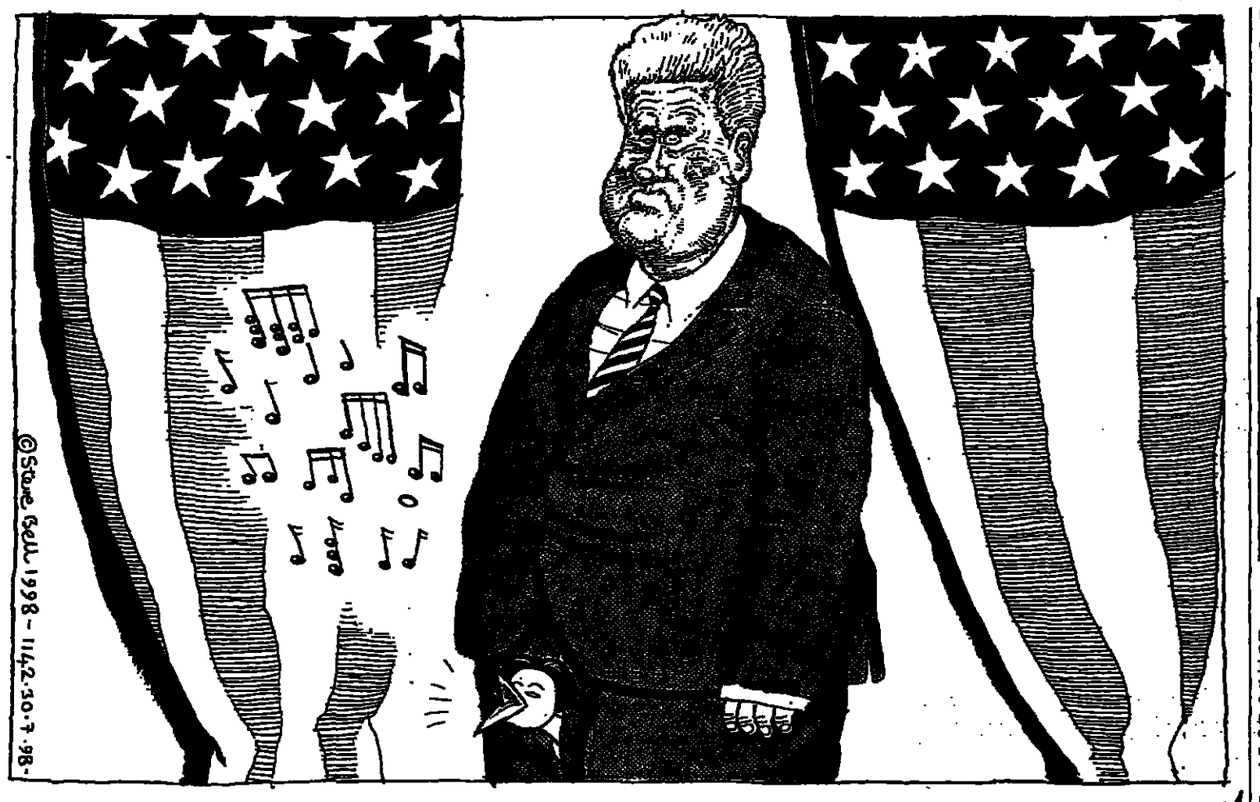
WE are overwhelmed by enquiries from excited young women following the appearance of that long awaited photo of Oofy Wegg-Prosser. "He looks absolutely gorgeous," says one caller, describing herself, phone-in style, as Lorna from Rochdale, "and I could really give him one. But it's an old shot. Can you let us know what he looks like today?" Lorna, and all you other Oofy worshippers out there, we can. Here he is, pictured walking along Whitehall, the requisite five yards behind an out-of-shot Mandy Mandelson. This is just a personal opinion but I think he's better than ever.



AN Ironist is loose on the backbench of the Daily Mirror. A friend picking up a European edition in Brussels on Tuesday was amused to see, beneath that picture of poor Harriet Harman smiling bravely with the bouquet in her hands, the caption: "Harriet . . . leaving her office yesterday with a bunch of flaws."

THE appointment of billionaire grocer David Sainsbury as one of Mandy's junior ministers at the DTI is worrying. I bow to no man in my admiration for his clever way of arranging fruit, while his carrier bags are in a league of their own, but I wonder how Mr Tony Blair will cope without his generosity. As a minister, the noble Lord cannot continue to make lavish gifts to Labour . . . donations like the £2 million he handed over before the last election, and the extra million he has reportedly given since. Even so, it's a joy to see a politician succeeding on his own merits.

I HATE to labour this question, but in the light of his grand new job, we put it for the third and final time of asking: will somebody please explain what is the point of Dr Jack Cunningham?



Cook's come up with a little foreign policy. We're still looking for vision

Hugo Young



THERE was a time, two months ago, when the biggest casualty of the cabinet reshuffle looked like being Robin Cook.

The Foreign Secretary was in deep water. Sandline and Sierra Leone swirled around him. His appearances in the Commons, most untypically, were those of a man floundering against the tide. Senior people in the Blair circle speculated with spurious anxiety on what might become of him.

Even now, with the Legg Report criticising the department for which he is responsible, the year that began last August with grisly family scenes at Heathrow has not exactly ended with bouquets adorning his reputation.

Nor does Cook belong in the ring of cronies, intellectual or otherwise. He's one man who will discern not a whit of difference between the views of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Not long ago, I heard him deliver a throw-away line that would have had spin-doctors in a frenzy. At a London School of Economics conference on Europe, he made an entirely gratuitous crack at "the economic hegemony that rules at the LSE today", contrasting it with the time when that place was dominated by professors — Abel-Smith, Titmuss — who worked on social exclusion, a model that needed to be re-discovered. The LSE director is Anthony Giddens, one of Blair's most prominent gurus, and the smoothest Third Way prophet in town.

Sandline, also, has been a jagged passage. Sir Thomas Legg clears ministers of conspiracy and, mostly, of dissembling to Parliament. But he exposes a shambles at the Foreign Office, with overworked officials ignorant of *UN resolutions their colleagues drafted*, and making a series of bad judgments about what might soon cause the dirt to hit the fan.

Mr Cook talked his way out of that pretty effectively, not least because the scandal, if scandal it was, was small potatoes. His response was straight from Sir Humphrey's rule-book: new committees and oversights and career adjustments to prevent a repeat calamity, along with the bigger FCO budget that might allow some of this to happen.

The budget victory, in the comprehensive spending review, should be the beginning of a Cook recovery. He will never be a Blairite *pur et dur*, but stage two of this government should allow him at last to punch his weight. One of the top three figures in the Opposition years, he's been nothing like the force he should be in government. Now that the team is bedded down, and all speculation ended, the time has come for the Foreign Secretary to assert the critical importance of his office.

So far he has not succeeded. The real problem with the Foreign Office isn't the overworked Africa department, but the sidelining of the European departments.

When Blair and Brown took their definitive decision last October to withhold Britain from the first round of economic and monetary union, the Foreign Office wasn't consulted. Cook, though he agreed with the decision, was out of the loop, something that could not conceivably have happened to Douglas Hurd if Major was similarly engaged. When Blair was preparing for the climax of the British EU presidency, the Cardiff summit, he confined the crucial meeting to his own staff and the Cabinet Office Eurocrats. The FCO wasn't there. It has suffered something of the fate Mrs Thatcher inflicted a decade ago — exclusion from the central European argument.

This highlights one bias whose correction would put beef into Cook's authority. Though most Europeans agree he was an excellent chairman of council meetings throughout the presidency — punctilious, swift, adept, thoroughly informed — he doesn't give EU matters a high enough priority in his thinking. The laser intellect hasn't focused, even yet. He talks a lot, correctly, about enlargement, but shies away from the hard issues that must precede it, to do with reform and the power-balance in the EU as is.

HE'S plainly reluctant to be a "European" statesman. Though that task mostly falls to government leaders, the Foreign Secretary is wasted, and then ignored, if he doesn't address the big, visionary question. Now that he's been given a Europe minister, Joyce Quin, who knows something about Europe, in place of Doug Henderson, the most negligible cypher ever to occupy the position, perhaps the Euro-energy will transcend the picayune.

But there's a larger issue: the nature of British foreign policy itself. What is it? What strategic choices are we prepared to make? Is it good enough to pretend we can go on being available as a global defence power, largely at the behest of the US? As a big defence spender, do we or do we not envisage closer European defence co-operation? Are we prepared to revise, or merely to go on fudging, the half-American, quarter-European posture in which history grips us? The strategic defence review, whose answers to these questions satisfied the military and defence industry, was designed to enhance New Labour as a party that had shed every particle of hostility to MoD ideology, rather than a party ready to re-consider Britain's place in a world which, between 1988 and 2009, is in the process of becoming unquestionably New. Cook's Foreign Office had little to do with it.

In disclaiming the burden of something called a foreign policy, it is being true to a long departmental record. Asked about his, before the last war, Lord Halifax said: "I distrust anyone who foresees consequences and advocates remedies to avert them." In 1944, when the case was made for a two-year foreign policy statement, updated every six months, the top official, Sir Alexander Cadogan, replied: "That way lies Bedlam."

When Christopher Mayhew, on appointment as a junior foreign minister in the post-war Labour government, asked for a document outlining the foreign policy he was supposed to start following, he was told not merely that no such document existed, but "that it was really rather doubtful whether we had a foreign policy in the proper sense at all".

Robin Cook has made a bit of foreign policy, by pledging himself to an "ethical dimension". It got him into trouble, because it seemed to promise more than he could deliver. Actually, even Tories concede in private that, on arms sales, Cook has been five per cent better than they were. What he now needs to do is bestride the bigger picture. After a dire first year, I guess he will start to do so.

Surviving Monicagate

Jonathan Freedland



HE is the master escapologist of US politics, and today he faces his greatest challenge. Can Bill Clinton wriggle out of the legal and political noose now tightening around his neck? Can he stage this one last, *great escape? And even if he* does, can the man from Hope ever be the president he wanted to be?

Few who have seen the Comeback Kid in action, watching him defy political death again and again, would write him off just yet. The wily old devil is tenacious to his fingertips, a man who simply refuses to give up. As he told the people of Dover, New Hampshire, in 1992, when his bid for the Democratic nomination seemed sunk by revelations of draft-dodging and an affair with Gennifer Flowers, "I'll be with you till the last dog dies."

But now the last dog is looking peaky and the obituarists are sharpening their pencils. Aides holed up inside the White House are said to be *muttering "checkmate" as* they ponder the trap special prosecutor Kenneth Starr has caught them in. To the foreign eye it seems absurd: surely the Americans cannot be about to topple a president of record-breaking popularity simply for fooling around with a woman not his wife? And yet Monica Lewinsky's testimony will prove much more than the existence of an affair — embarrassing though that would be. It could prove that President Clinton committed perjury and even obstruction of justice. And, remember, it was that latter charge which formed the first article of impeachment against Richard Nixon, approved by the House Judiciary Committee almost 24 years ago to this very day.

THE legal threat is simple enough. If the former White House office junior persuades the grand jury of 12 regular citizens that she had an affair with the President — directly contradicting his testimony earlier this year — then he could be done for perjury. Starr will press her further, pushing her to claim that the President urged her to lie about their relationship. If that claim stands up, then Clinton is guilty of "suborning perjury" — *deep Nixon territory, and a* heartbeat away from impeachment.

The President has a few options. He can obey the Starr subpoena that landed on his desk last week and restate his original denial. The gamble here is that in any he-said-she-said contest, the President wins over the intern. The trouble is, Starr has won a series of victories which might have bagged corroborating evidence and even witnesses to the Clinton-Lewinsky affair. Court rulings have allowed him to grill Secret Service agents — the ultra-discreet phalanx whose job is to stay close to the presidential body. They may have seen Clinton and the intern in a compromising position. Suddenly, it would no longer be Monica's word against Bill's: he would be exposed as a liar.

Unless he opts for the weasel route. He could say that when, last January, he looked the American people in the eye and insisted he "did not have sexual relations with that woman" he was telling *the truth — in his own* special way. He might argue that under his definition, oral sex is not sex at all — and that therefore he never committed perjury. It would be an eerie parallel of Clinton's "I didn't inhale" defence on dope-smoking: except this time Clinton's the joint and Monica's the smoker. If that moment comes, the grand Starr inquisition, which has already endured longer than World War II, would descend into low farce. The Supreme Court will be asked to define sexual relations, no doubt checking the Bible, Shakespeare and Roman love poetry in their inquiries.

But such absurdity can be avoided. Clinton could defy the subpoena and say nothing. But that would look like evasion — *the action of a guilty* man. Besides, the President's fellow Democrats want this whole business wrapped up before the mid-term elections in November. They do not want more delay.

So Clinton may have to contemplate the hardest act of all. If evidence of an affair is incontrovertible, he may have to

Bill Clinton might argue that, under his definition, oral sex is not sex at all

gamble on the indulgence the American people. He may have to admit that he did have sex *with Monica and lied about it* on national TV — and hope the voters forgive him once more. Such a gamble may work. There is little appetite in Congress for a re-run of the national trauma that was Watergate. And few Republicans relish the thought of running against President, rather than candidate, Al Gore in 2000.

So the Comeback Kid may do it again. But there will be a cost. A man of extraordinary gifts will not be the president of his dreams. Sure, he has watched over a period of sus*tained prosperity, but he has* not channelled his talents into a great national mission — not even his own vision of healing the American rift on race. Instead he has spent his presidency holding onto the presidency — destined to be remembered as less Harry Truman than Harry Houdini.

An organisation that claims to protect timber forests is in fact colluding in their destruction

Cry rape

George Monbiot

A FEW years ago, a friend was shopping in a DIY superstore, when he noticed an indisputable lie. "This Brazilian mahogany," a sign in the shop announced, "is sustainably produced in well-managed forests. Its extraction does no harm to either the rainforests or their people."

Knowing that there wasn't a single source of sustainable Brazilian mahogany, he asked to see the manager. The manager immediately began to shout. "It's sustainable," he blurted, "because I say it is." When my friend remonstrated, he was thrown out. He returned the next day with a new notice, identical in size and colour, with which he replaced the original. "On a recent visit to Brazil," it read, "the manager of this store contracted gonnorhoea. He therefore encourages you to buy this timber, whose extraction destroys the rainforests and murders their inhabitants." The new sign stayed up for days.

Since then, life has moved on. Mahogany loggers are still destroying the rainforest and murdering the indigenous people who try to stop them. Companies are still making bogus claims about the provenance of their wood. But, for people seeking sustainably-produced timber, there is, at last, a reliable labelling system, monitored by independent experts, and certified by an organisation called the Forest Stewardship Council.

Suppliers have not been slow to recognise the commercial potential of properly monitored timber. B&Q and Homebase are competing furiously to be the first superstores to supply only FSC-approved wood. Ten million hectares of forest worldwide have already been certified.

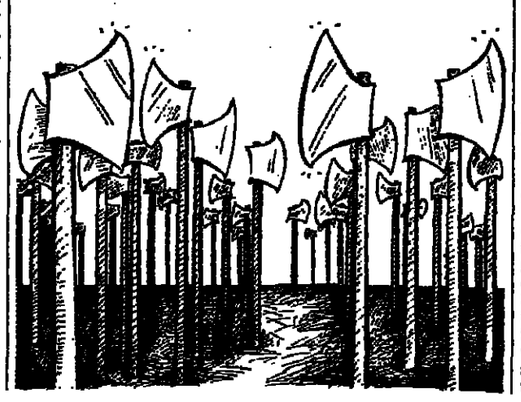
So there would seem, at first sight, to be some support for the claims made by the adverts being run by the Timber Trade Federation. A picture of a chainsaw is captioned: "In the war against deforestation, this is our strongest weapon . . . managed timber forests guarantee that the trees are constantly replanted. The only alternative for many forests is to be destroyed by slash and burn agriculture."

It's a pleasantly counter-intuitive proposition and, in the forests certified by the FSC, it seems to hold. Recognising that sustainable timber production is more lucrative than any other use, people leave the forest standing.

There's only one problem. The FSC's efforts are being disrupted by an organisation which has sought both to undermine confidence in the certification process and to replace it with a meaningless code of its own. It has helped, as a result, to ensure that timber cutting, far from saving the world's forests, remains one of the primary causes of their destruction. The organisation is the Timber Trade Federation, the body which placed the advertisements.

The TTF encourages timber traders not to pursue FSC certification, but instead to apply its own "Environmental Purchasing Policy", based on "*government standards*", which are often far lower than those set by the FSC. In Brazil, for example, government inspectors are under-resourced and cheap to buy. Timber cutters will proudly show you drawers full of inspection certificates which they have been given to fill in for themselves.

In response to repeated exposures of such malpractice, the TTF signed an agreement with Aimex, the Brazilian trade body whose members supply nearly all of Britain's mahogany. Aimex promised that all the timber it sold would be "extracted strictly in accordance with Brazilian laws". Soon afterwards, 14 of the 26 Aimex companies were fined for illegal activities such as smashing roads through Indian and biological reserves in order to steal their timber. The TTF dismissed these indiscretions as "minor technical infringements", and continued to insist that the wood Aimex supplied came from well-managed sources. Last year, a leaked Brazilian government report revealed that 80 per cent of all the mahogany extracted from the Amazon is illegally felled.



Timber cutting of this kind has precisely the opposite effects to those advertised by the TTF. The loggers batter their way through forests which have never been threatened before. The roads they open attract settlers and ranchers who, by means of the slashing and burning the TTF publicly laments, complete the destruction the timber companies began.

Haughty, mendacious, mouthing the stale mantra of self-regulation, the Timber Trade Federation, like the new director of the CBI, is trapped in the 1980s. We may have moved on, but they cleave to the past. The danger is that, with so much money to spend on promulgating their Cretaceous creeds, they will drag us all back to the antediluvian mire in which they still wallow.

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'Leftwingers are too busy presenting and producing TV to fill all the guest spots'
Peter Hitchens, Letters

Clinton's own affair

It shouldn't topple him

A MARRIED man has a sexual encounter with a woman: later they discuss ways of covering it up. It is a familiar tale (with or without the roles reversed) to many people — and often at first hand. Should it be of compelling interest because the man in question is the President of the US? And is the attempt to conceal the relationship an impeachable offence? The immunity agreement now reached between Monica Lewinsky and the so-called "independent" counsel Kenneth Starr ensures that the story will fill the summer pages however these questions are answered, but it does not make them any less valid.

The deal struck by Mr Starr will not affect judgment on these basic issues, but it does shift the tactical balance of advantage against Bill Clinton. At the beginning of the year he said he was keen to tell the American people the full story, but was hampered by the legal process. As long as Monica Lewinsky and Mr Starr were at odds, the White House could present the enquiry as a judicial witchhunt which sought to condemn the President by innuendo rather than facts. Now Ms Lewinsky is about to tell the facts as she purports to remember them, Mr Clinton faces a new challenge. Legal prudence would suggest that he should continue to procrastinate — at least till he has heard her version — but this could shift public opinion seriously against him. He may still feel obliged to testify and then face a new dilemma: should he stick to his story and invite the entire world to measure his credibility against that of his former intern? Or should he admit that he was telling less than the full truth (as most people now believe to be so) to the American people? So far public opinion has generally been more impatient with Mr Clinton's pursuers than with him. But when the time comes for more definite judgment, it could be less sympathetic.

This is where those fundamental questions will become critical. Opinion polls suggest that on the first issue of consensual sex (or something approaching it) most Americans feel that this is not a matter for censure. There is one area of doubt: can any such relationship be truely consensual when it involves such a mismatch of personal power? Yet Mr Clinton is not a dictator using the apparatus of state to order unwilling partners into his bed. Ms Lewinsky appears to have enjoyed the excitement of a liaison — innocent or otherwise — with the President of the USA — and why not? So far Mr Clinton deserves a generally positive verdict: his behaviour may be distasteful to some, but it is essentially a private matter.

The issue of perjury will cause more trouble to many Americans — and abroad too. Ms Lewinsky's role was first raised in a private lawsuit brought by Paula Jones against Mr Clinton in which both denied a sexual relationship. Mr Starr then extended his Whitewater fishing expedition to investigate allegations of a cover-up involving Ms Lewinsky. Mr Clinton would not be the first person in a witness-box to have sought to evade the truth — perhaps, as is suggested in this case, convincing himself that what did occur did not amount to fully-fledged "sexual relations," or that a few ambiguous episodes did not amount to the "affair" which he later denied on television.

Such behaviour is wrong but not perhaps so incredibly and shockingly wrong. There is also a degree of irony in expecting a president to be absolutely truthful on personal matters when he heads a government which often varnishes the truth — or worse — on matters of much graver importance. This summer now seems likely to be remembered for the climax of the Lewinsky saga, but it is not so earth-shaking that it should bring the President down.

Real care

Compulsory orders have a place

SHOULD mental patients in the community be subject to compulsory treatment? The last government struggled with the issue and the current administration has found it equally intractable. Mental health campaigners suggest there have already been 28 drafts of a new policy paper — at least two of which have been leaked — but we still await an official version. Instead the Health Secretary yesterday announced a new review of the 1983 Mental Health Act, promised a large injection of funds, and unveiled a package of proposals which our social services correspondent accurately forecast last Saturday. They include 24-hour outreach teams, a 24-hour crisis telephone line, more specialist secure units, more acute beds and hostels, support accommodation and home treatment teams.

Labour is worried by exaggerated public fears over care in the community. Contrary to the image projected by the media, mental patients pose a far greater threat to themselves than to the public. About 1,000 commit suicide every year compared to 26 who kill members of the public. Statistically, you are 20 times more likely to be killed by a sane than an insane person. Even so, there is much that is wrong with the current care in the community programme. In the Health Secretary's words, too many vulnerable people have been left to cope on their own, too many sick and confused people have been left wandering the street sleeping rough, and a small but significant minority have become a danger to the public as well as themselves.

Until now, professionals have resisted compulsory treatment in the community. Psychiatrists, community psychiatric nurses and mental patients have all been opposed. They rightly point to existing provisions, like supervised discharge, which remain little used. Yet the debate has moved on since community treatment orders were first floated 15 years ago. We have moved even further down the "hospital without walls" road. Does it really make sense to restrict compulsion to patients recalled to an acute hospital bed? Compulsory treatment orders as a substitute for urgently needed community investment should be opposed. But ministers yesterday set out a comprehensive package of services with a £1 billion price tag. That would be the biggest investment any professional currently alive has seen. As a complement to — rather than a substitute for — community services, tightly-drawn compulsory treatment orders could be acceptable.

Sunset politicos

In Japan it's old policies for new

IN practically any other country if something had gone badly wrong they would have turned to a younger person to put it right. Not so in Japan where the new prime minister, Keizo Obuchi, has just appointed Kiichi Miyazawa as finance minister. Mr Miyazawa, who was himself prime minister between 1991 and 1993, is 78. This is old for an active politician even in a Confucian culture like Japan. If Tony Blair were to repeat this political longevity he could still be in power 33 years hence. The curious thing is that the appointment seems to have reassured the jittery financial markets that Mr Miyazawa is the right man to oversee the radical changes needed in economic policy. He has already been involved in the overhaul of Japan's crumbling banking system but otherwise he looks more like part of the problem rather than the solution. His record as prime minister was unremarkable — it came up as Buggin's turn during one of the Liberal Democratic Party's regular bouts of musical chairs. His one remembered remark was when he said that American workers had come to lack a work ethic and "do not live by the sweat of their brow". He might pause before repeating it today.

Japan is desperately hoping that this will be a case of cometh the crisis, cometh the man. In an important sense they may be right. If Japan's ruling gerontocracy wants to find a solution to the imploding economy then on this occasion there may be a gerontological escape route: back to J M Keynes. The Japanese economy displays all the symptoms of Keynes's liquidity trap. Consumption needs to be boosted but consumers won't spend thinking prices will get even lower. Monetary policy won't work because interest rates are so low already. The economy needs to be revived either by sustained rising prices or a Keynesian expansion where the state spends because no one else will. If Mr Miyazawa succeeds he will have the gratitude not just of his peers in Japan but of senior citizens everywhere. For once the Old world will be redressing the balance of the New.

Letters to the Editor

Gypsies and choo-choos

YOUR Guide (Clubs, July 25) tells us River Phoenix smelt like "a complete gyppo", while Weekend tells us (In the ghetto) Roma have "admitted" stealing children. On the next page is a picture of George Soros — but no mention of the millions of dollars he has spent sponsoring a Romani intellectual and political renaissance. If we could stop the use of stereotypes about Gypsies, we'd be half way to solving the problem of European racism.
Thomas Acton.
Professor of Romani Studies, University of Greenwich.

I WAS interested by the reference in Pass Notes (July 29) to the availability of laudanum from the local chemist. I would be about nine in 1915 when my grandmother came to look after my mother in her final illness. She concocted a potent cough cure, of which one ingredient was laudanum, and I was sent to the chemist for it. It was quite drinkable — unlike the champagne which you distributed to 90-year-olds, of whom I was one — and obviously did me no harm.
Colin Wood.
Bingley, W Yorks.

WHILE Nicholas Kenyon has been in charge of Radio 3, my CD collection has greatly increased. Mr Kenyon, like his presenters and producers, retains the sleeve notes and throws away the disc, so I regularly visit the Radio 3 dustbins and help myself, though rejecting such Kenyon obsessions as Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Stravinsky. Old 78rpm records did not have "informative" sleeve notes, so I am able to enjoy the music without them.
Bob Davenport.
London.

GOSH, how awful, they're asking known right-wingers to be guests on the radio and even TV, sometimes as often as twice a week (Opinions, we've got 'em, G2 July 29). Could this be because all the leftwingers are too busy presenting the programmes, producing and editing them to fill the guest spots as well?
Peter Hitchens.
London.

I USED to write quite frequently, but am terrified that I might be quoted in large bold letters, out of context, at the top of the page. Besides, if you didn't have that great white space at the top, you could get at least another six short and pithy letters on the page.
Ian McRobert.
Peterborough.

SHAKESPEARE had a word to say about Cabinet reshuffles. Sir Andrew Aguecheek says in Twelfth Night: "I had as lief be a Brownist as a politician."
C I Davies.
Wrexham, Clwyd.

OF course there should be more women train drivers (Train driver spotting, G2, July 28) — it's a woman's right to choo-choos.
Denny Plowman.
Nottingham.

Think again, Darling

THE letter from 150 welfare academics to Alistair Darling is to be welcomed (Society, July 29). But it, like the government green paper, says not a word about agencies at the hard end. They appear beyond the interest of highly paid ministers and beyond the experience of academics.

Neighbourhood groups and community projects involve over 2 million residents in food co-ops, credit unions, play schemes, day care, community cafés etc. In deprived areas they are a daily support to low-income families. The projects have local participation and commitment, but despite a recommendation by the Social Justice Commission, the Government refuses to establish a national means of funding them.
Bob Holman.
Glasgow.

THE social policy specialists ask where was "the duty on government and employers" to provide work and training opportunities in Frank Field's green paper.

The Government's answer is, no doubt, the New Deal wage subsidy. But this needs two further commitments to be made. Firstly to ensure that, as the economy slows down, the New Deal is maintained in more difficult times as a permanent bridge to employment. And secondly that the £19 billion committed to education and £21 billion to health is about boosting the demand for jobs in the public sector.

A more difficult task is for employers to deliver employment opportunities. No magical set of policies is going to be sufficient to ensure full and fulfilling employment. What is required is a change in the hire and fire "corporate culture" to value and retain employees.
Rosemary Pyle.
Warrington, Cheshire.

"Action Man" at the Department of Social Security cannot do this in isolation, it requires the "Enforcer" to get other departments working together.
Tony Gray.
London.

THE experts' letter was circumspect in its criticisms. Others might emphasise the three guiding ideas of Frank Field's green paper: the belief in (any kind of) paid work, an implicit distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor; and a total acceptance of the American New Right's myth of "welfare dependency" among claimants. New Labour has turned out to have some very old ideas about social security.
Prof Chas Critcher.
Sheffield Hallam University.

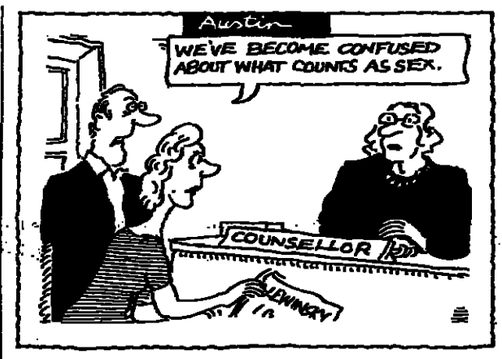
IT is nonsense to say that Frank Field showed little evidence of skills as a "teamworker" prior to becoming a minister. What about the many column inches of praise given by the Guardian over the years when, as chairman of the social security select committee, he brought MPs of widely different philosophies together to work co-operatively and creatively?

The task of welfare reform is horrendously complex. Frank Field did not produce miracles out of a hat, but give credit for his work in and out of parliament attempting to resolve the tangle which 18 years of misrule and 50 years of social change has created.
Rosemary Pyle.
Warrington, Cheshire.

LET'S hope Frank Field's return to the back benches brings a more enlightened approach to private occupational pension schemes and thus improve the UK's deplorable productivity. Mr Field mistakenly believed that these pension schemes were the "unsung heroes of the UK's post-war pension arrangements".

There are 200,000 occupational pension schemes with funds in excess of £600 billion. These funds are a vital source of capital to institutional fund managers who invest them in blue-chip companies where demands for higher dividends take precedent over the long-term growth of the company.

A relatively small number of people control too high a proportion of the UK's investment capital. The system gains the compliance of top management by allowing them to benefit from a pension calculated on the earnings of their last three years of employment, which of course they obviously can and do increase astronomically.
William Poeton.
Union of Independent Companies, London.



Keeping a rein on the Treasury

TONY Blair's moves to create a countervailing power to the Treasury (Blair balances the power, July 28), the suffocating and custodial style of which has prevented innovation in government, are praiseworthy.

A US-style office of management and budget should be the model. Reform would have been more effective if responsibility for the management of the Civil Service had been shifted back from the Treasury to the Cabinet Office.

Though an essential first step, the changes so far are an entirely structural solution to a systems problem. The Government has been transformed in the last decade or so, from 30-odd departments to 30 departmental headquarters, 130 agencies and 5,500 executive quangos. Many compete with each other in environmental protection, reviving inner cities, children's issues, taxation, tax benefits and grants. The information they produce is primitive: good enough for a Treasury financial audit but largely useless for management objective-setting and control and for tracking cross-departmental — agency and quango — policies and spending programmes. The new Cabinet Office will have to give priority to this problem.
John Garrett.
Norwich.

Labour's line on blood money

FRANK Dobson's assertion that the National Health Service only pays out to patients when they can prove negligence is wrong (Hepatitis cash refusal 'unfair', July 29). They have already paid out to HIV sufferers who were contaminated in the same way, but they had a much more vociferous lobby. This looks to me like New Labour covering the backsides of Old Labour. The Callaghan government was in power when I was contaminated in 1978.

Previous to this there had been a World In Action programme on television showing that there was a problem with contaminated blood products. Nothing was done. If I had been living in Germany, I would not have been contaminated as they had already started heat treatment of the products. This fact alone shows that the NHS was negligent in not starting the treatment until approximately seven years later.

In France a minister who was in power at the time that the contaminated blood products were being used has been accused of manslaughter, so we are now starting to get the picture of a cover-up.

My solicitor has informed me, that they have been trying to get some committee minutes released which, he believes, will show that the government of the time did know of the dangers of contaminated products. They decided in their wisdom that the risks did not outweigh the costs of starting the screening treatment.

I have suffered grave illness and loss of earnings as the virus has taken its toll. I am determined to fight my case and that of the other 5,000 haemophiliacs, even if I have to go to the European courts.
I would like to hear from anyone who can help in anyway to set up a fighting fund.
David T Robinson.
Cleethorpes
Lincolnshire

Visa account

YOUR report (Russians bristle at UK visa queries, July 28) on our visa office in Moscow is unfair. Moscow is our busiest visa post. It issues 90,000 visas a year. So everyone there is working flat out. Their job is to establish whether each visa application is genuine, and meets our immigration rules. This has to involve asking some detailed personal questions. Our responsibility to British tax payers means we could do no less. The team in Moscow, like all our visa posts worldwide, are expected to be polite and courteous, while providing an efficient, fast and fair service.

If there is firm evidence of any interviews falling short of these high standards, we would, of course, follow it up.
Baroness Symons.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London.

Net works

IN my experience the Net can be a godsend (Letters, July 29). Eighteen months ago I walked out of the hospital having just been told that I had multiple sclerosis. I was given no advice about support services, especially counselling.

I dialled into the Internet as soon as I got home. Within the hour I was receiving telephone counselling through Multiple Sclerosis Forum. Within days I was attending a physiotherapy centre that specialised in MS.

I use the Internet regularly to learn about the latest research findings on the disease from MS forums and from prestigious medical journals. Some of the most thoughtful critiques of government policy on the needs of the disabled are to be found on the Net. The nonsense on the Net is a small price to pay for its nuggets of worthwhile information.
Martin Mitchell.
London.

JONATHAN Miller may or may not be right about the amount of spurious information waiting on the Internet to trap the credulous (Tangled Web, G2, July 28), but that's hardly the point.

He offers as an example of a virulent Net untruth, iridology — which says the human iris can be used as a diagnostic tool. But iridology was invented at the end of the 18th century and has happily circulated as a perceived truth for 200 years without the Net.

The critical faculties we use on the Net are the same as we use to distinguish the Guardian from the Sport on Sunday.
John Diamond.
London.

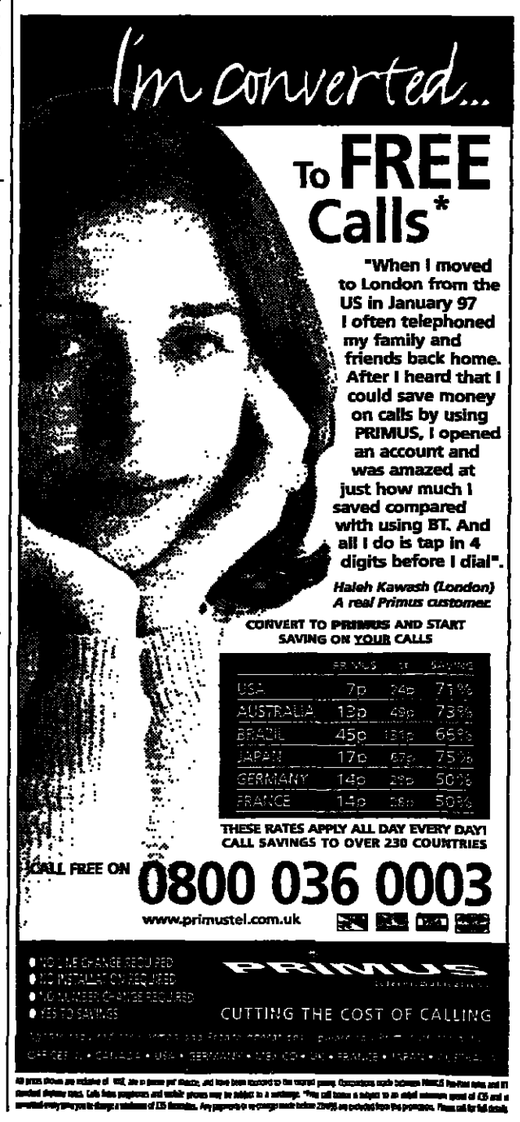
Right to trial by jury stands as cornerstone of justice

RESTRICTING the right to jury trial in order to save money is impossible to justify (Curbs on right to jury trial, July 28). Jury trial is a cornerstone of our criminal justice system. It enables individuals to be judged by their peers, rather than by an unaccountable and often out of touch judiciary. A jury more accurately reflects the social and ethnic background of the population. Its importance in allowing ordinary citizens to judge the criminality of others can be seen, for example, in recent cases where people have been acquitted for supplying cannabis for medical purposes. It provides a vitally important balance to the power of government, the judiciary and law enforcement agencies: this external accountability underpins public confidence in our system of justice.

Theft, handling stolen goods and indecent assault are serious charges and the human cost of wrongful conviction is high. To argue that the erosion of fundamental rights can be justified by cost-effectiveness is deeply misguided.
Mary Cunneen.
Liberty, London.

YOU repeat a mistaken interpretation of Home Office research that "more than 70 per cent of those who opt for jury trial plead guilty by the day of trial". The research covered only convicted defendants and took no account of those who were acquitted. Many of those who did change their plea to guilty did so only after the charges against them were reduced.

Jury trial is one of the few means still available to black defendants to resist police racism. They do opt for jury trial more frequently, with the result that more of them have charges against them dropped or reduced or are acquitted.
Prof Lee Bridges.
University of Warwick.



Travel tips

I WHOLLY support Dea Birkett (Voyage of self-discovery, G2, July 28): women should travel where they want, when they want and how they want. However, the reality is that in many cultures women are perceived and treated very differently. To use Dea's example, a western woman in Morocco will automatically be judged on what she wears and how she behaves, it is therefore essential for her to send out the right messages.

To be able to do this you need information. The Lonely Planet Guide To Morocco (written by two women) offers sound advice to women (dress modestly, wear a wedding ring, avoid male-only bars). This in no way aims to compromise the woman's trip, but to help her get the most out of Morocco, safely and on her terms.

Being an experienced traveller, Dea is extremely culturally aware and so adheres to cultural codes automatically; the first-time traveller may not be so streetwise.
Sarah Long.
Lonely Planet guides, London.

We do not publish letters where with only an e-mail address; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Cash deficit

YOU ask (Bridge of sighs, Society, July 29) whether the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) offers value for money. The answer, predictably, is no, as the PFI makes little economic sense.

The British government can borrow funds at lower rates than any private borrower. Moreover, British capital markets are often ill-suited to funding projects of this nature. It therefore makes no sense for the private sector to do the fundraising.

Even if they can provide the services more cheaply (and this is merely asserted) the appropriate policy would be contracting-out, not the PFI.

Firms have cherry-picked the most lucrative PFI projects, demanding generous profit margins, despite the low risks of such projects.

Cost over-runs have been common. The BMA found that PFI projects could have been undertaken more cheaply in the public sector, and there is plenty of evidence of this elsewhere.

Recent studies have shown that the PFI is not providing additional finance, but being used as a substitute for existing finance.

The surprise is that anyone should be surprised at these developments.
Jonathan Perraton.
Political Economy Research Centre,
University of Sheffield.

Binnie Barnes

Glamour on the screen



Wit and beauty . . . Binnie Barnes at the Lido, for the Venice Film Festival, 1952 PHOTOGRAPH: TOPHAM PICTUREPOINT

THE LOVELY British-born film actress Binnie Barnes has just died at her Beverly Hills home, aged 93, despite the fact that both Leslie Halliwell's *Filmgoers' Companion* and Ephraim Katz's *Film Encyclopedia*, killed her off many years ago.

The writers were probably working on the assumption that when an active actress suddenly retires from the screen, as Barnes did in 1954, she must be dead. However, no Norma Desmond she. Barnes did make a comeback in 1966, albeit disguised as a nun in *The Trouble With Angels* and its sequel *Where Angels Go... Trouble Follows* (1968), but she was extremely visible, if not recognisable, dancing with Gene Kelly in her last film, *Forty Carats* in 1972, and was very active in charitable work around Hollywood for many years subsequently.

Although Binnie Barnes made more than 50 films (seven in 1938 alone) in a career that began in 1929, the only memorable thing in most of them was her wit and beauty. She never became a star, but was content to play second leads, often the heroine's snooty rival. For example, she was the Russian countess who attempts to lure Edward Arnold away from his wife in *Sutter's Gold* (1936), and the society woman who tries to keep Robert Taylor from Janet Gaynor in *Small Town Girl* (1936).

Gertrude Maude Barnes was born in the Caledonian Road, the daughter of a London bobby. She worked as a milkmaid, a nurse in a Kent asylum, chorus girl and dance hostess before entering films, appearing mostly in 26 two-reel comedy shorts opposite music-hall comedian Stanley Lupino (father of Ida). But it was only after five features that she first made an impact internationally as a saucy Catherine Howard to Charles Laughton's king in Alexander Korda's *The Private Life of Henry VIII* (1933), a role that got her invited to Hollywood. (Barnes had already worked with Laughton on stage in Sean O'Casey's *The Silver Tassie*.)

This was followed by *The Private Life of Don Juan* (1934), a dispiriting affair, in which an ageing Douglas Fairbanks (in his last film) was surrounded by a bevy of English ingenues (among whom Barnes was the liveliest) posing as senoritas.

Before going to Hollywood, Barnes was one of the 250-strong company in Noël Coward's *Cavalcade* at Drury Lane. She played opposite John Mills as her beau. "I towered over him, so Mr Coward thought it would be fun to have us play our love scenes sitting down," she recalled.

In Hollywood, Barnes made a resplendent Lillian Russell in *Diamond Jim* (1935), dazzling Edward Arnold as Diamond Jim Brady, and was the stronger of the two English girls in *The Last of The Mohicans* (1939) with the Ritz Brothers in the title roles, except during the moment when she's turned upside down by the brothers to shake some keys out of her bodice.

In 1940, Barnes married Mike Frankovich, whom she met while playing poker with "the boys" at Clark Gable's. He was an independent producer, who later became vice-president of Columbia Pictures. He was Catholic and she Jewish, but she converted to Catholicism. They had two sons and a daughter. While Frankovich was serving in the army during the second world war, his wife appeared as Annie Bonney, rival to Maureen O'Hara, after fellow-pirate Paul Henreid, in the swashbuckling *The Spanish Main* (1945).

"I trained for several months with a sword master," she remembered, "I could have beaten Errol Flynn. It was one of my best received performances."

The following year she managed to cope with Abbott and Costello in *The Time Of Their Lives* (1946), an "old dark house" comedy-thriller in which she had the best line. On being confronted by Gale Sondergaard's sinister housekeeper, Barnes asks: "Weren't you in *Rebecca*?" After the war, the family moved to Italy and then to England where Frankovich produced *Decameron Nights* (1953) into which a modicum of sex was injected by Barnes.

In 1990, when Binnie Barnes was asked if she missed show business, she commented: "We were in the business of selling glamour. We went to parties in gowns the studios gave us. Look at TV series and films today which masquerade as glamour, and see how much they have fallen into tawdriness and cheapness. I don't miss the business, because it's not there any more or, at least, not as I remember it."

Ronald Bergan

Binnie Barnes, actress; born March 25, 1905; died July 27, 1998

George Doughty

Loyal to the unions



Serving the members ... George Doughty

THE only ambition of George Doughty, who has died aged 87, was to serve the members of his trade union. He achieved it. The former general secretary of the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association (Data), Doughty was for many years a member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress, and a trade unionist in the best traditional mould.

George Doughty came from Birmingham. He was educated at Handsworth Technical School and Aston Technical College and trained at General Electric. After a brief stay with English Electric, he worked in the GEC drawing office until 1946 when he was elected a full-time Data official.

At that time Data was known as the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen and comprised highly skilled technicians — a condition of full membership was that applicants had to have worked for at least eight years in either engineering or shipbuilding. Doughty personified many of the members. He came from a working-class background, had studied hard at night school and maintained a lifelong interest in all things mechanical and electrical and was proudly conscious of the skill he possessed.

Doughty had achieved a national union reputation before becoming a full-timer. As an annual conference delegate he probably did more than anyone to convince the union that the claim for an agreed national minimum pay scale up to 25 years of age for drawing office and associated technicians could be achieved.

In 1952, while still a Birmingham-based divisional official, Doughty was comfortably elected general secretary — against the union's assistant general secretary — in a conference delegate vote. Backed by the left, Doughty won wider support because of his militancy on wages.

High office and honours did not attract him. His political sympathies were with the Labour left but he was never comfortable at party conferences. He was much happier meeting his members or negotiating with employers. He believed that the union should observe negotiating procedure agreements, while adamantly upholding the right of members against employers who broke agreements. During his tenure the union sanctioned many strikes — only when negotiations were refused or had been exhausted — and they were nearly all settled favourably.

Doughty had no sympathy for those who argued that union annual conference decisions could be disregarded. Similarly he respected the union's executive committee, and he was never authoritarian towards other officials.

He served for many years on the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' executive council, and on the TUC general council, working closely with Jack Jones.

Data has now merged into what is now the Manufacturing Science Finance union. Draughting has been largely overtaken by computer aided design and engineering and shipbuilding have both declined. Doughty was associated with the union when it was strong and effective. He made a big contribution to its success.

George was helped throughout his life by his wife, Millie, whom he married in 1941 (she died a few years ago). Theirs was a happy marriage. She too was from a working-class family and was popular with all who met her. They are survived by two sons.

J E Mortimer

George Henry Doughty, trade unionist, born May 17, 1911; died July 25, 1998

Melvin Barnett

A life lost to the liberal cause

MELVIN Barnett, who has died aged 83, was a victim of the congressional search for communist conspirators in the United States of the 1950s. He was also a reminder of one of the most embarrassing moments in the history of the New York Times, a newspaper with a long commitment to civil liberties, when, in Barnett's case, it declined to protect the liberties of one of its own news staff.

In the 1930s a surprising number of Americans joined the Communist Party. This was true of people from many backgrounds. A startling number of famous intellectuals, for example, endorsed the party in the 1936 presidential election. This was especially true among Jewish immigrants in New York City.

The Russian and Polish Jewish communities in Brooklyn and the Bronx were sharply divided. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union, for example, was social democratic and strongly anti-communist while the leadership of the furriers' union, on the contrary, was largely communist.

Less than 20 years later, the United States committed to the Cold War and the country became gripped by anti-communist feeling. A series of congressional investigations were launched, including those by the House of Representatives Un-American Activities Committee and by Senator Joseph McCarthy, to track down and expose communists.

Many Jewish former communists had broken with the party at the time of the Nazi-Soviet pact in 1939, fought in the war and held strongly anti-communist views by the time the Cold War began. This, however, was hard to explain to people from regions of the country, such as the south and the middle west, where socialism and even trade unionism were deeply suspect and Communist Party membership was virtually unknown.

The 1995 revelation of the Venona tapes (intelligence intercepts of radio traffic between agents of the Soviet Union and their controllers in the US with Moscow Centre) has confirmed that there was indeed a massive and significant Soviet espionage effort targeted against the United States, with special interest in the American nuclear programme.

A number of men and women accused of espionage, including some of those whose innocence was most indignantly championed by liberals, among them Alger Hiss and Ethel and Julius Rosenberg are now known to have been involved in Soviet espionage. It is also plain from the intercepts that, in spite of passionate denials, the Communist Party of the United States of America was itself involved in recruiting and supporting spies.

On the other hand, many CP members were caught up in the backwash of the major investigations. Such a person was Melvin Barnett, a Harvard graduate who served in the US army in the second world war before getting a job as a "copy editor" (sub-editor) on the New York Times.

His troubles began when the Senate internal security sub-committee, chaired by the extreme rightwing segregationist from Mississippi, Senator Jim Eastland, heard evidence from a CBS radio journalist, Winston Burdett, who testified that he had joined the Communist Party when he was working at a local paper, the Brooklyn Eagle, before the war, and that no fewer than 12 of his colleagues, including Melvin Barnett, were also members of the party.

On July 13, 1955 Barnett testified to the Eastland sub-committee that "since February or March 1942, sir, I have not been a communist. At the time prior to that I assert my privilege under the Fifth Amendment". The fifth amendment to the US constitution protects citizens against being obliged to incriminate themselves. The same day Barnett received a letter from Arthur Hays Sulzberger, the famous publisher (proprietor) of the Times, saying that "the course of conduct which you have followed since your name was first mentioned in this connection culminating in your action today has caused the Times to lose confidence in you as a member of its news staff."

Later Turner Catledge, then the managing editor, wrote that Barnett was not dismissed because he pleaded the Fifth Amendment, but because he did not "co-operate with us in protecting the integrity of the New York Times".

Six months later, the New York Times stated in an editorial that in the case of employees who testified to communist associations or pleaded the Fifth Amendment, "it will be our policy to judge each case on its own merits".

The Times published a full obituary after his death. But Barnett was harshly punished in later life for the line he took. For many years he could not find work as a journalist. He picked oranges in Florida, worked as a cook on a shrimp boat and edited manuscripts for "vanity presses" (which publish books paid for by their authors, and are not thought to be one of the higher reaches of the publishing trade) before he finally got a job on the Medical Tribune, described as a journal distributed to doctors.

He retired in 1978, and is survived by his wife, a son and two grandchildren.



Testifying . . . Melvin Barnett at the committee hearings, 1955 UP/CORBIS-BETTMANN

Godfrey Hodgson

Melvin Barnett, journalist; born 1915, died June 17, 1998

Letter

Rosemarie M A Maggie writes: Your obituary on Lord Bonar Carpenter (July 15) recalled memories of him in Northern Ireland, where I worked for the war pensioners' welfare service, part of the (then) Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

He was our minister for seven years from 1955 and visited us annually. He attended the war pensions committee (of which I was clerk) and had an informal meeting with people involved in the welfare of disabled ex-servicemen, war widows and orphans. We were impressed by his facility for remembering faces and names from year to year and his knowledge.

Birthdays

Prof Ingrid Allen, neuropathologist, 56; **Paul Anka**, composer and singer, 57; **Dr Stephen Blackmore**, botanist, 46; **Peter Bogdanovich**, film director, 59; **Kate Bush**, singer, 40; **Teresa Cahill**, opera singer, 54; **Meredith Davies**, conductor, 76; **Frances de la Tour**, actress, 54; **Harriet Harman**, Labour MP, former Secretary of State for Social Security, 48; **Lord Killanin**, honorary life president, International Olympic Committee, 84; **Wyn Knowles**, former editor, BBC Woman's Hour, 75; **Diana Lamplugh**, campaigner for victims of crime, 62; **Lord McCarthy**, industrial relations arbiter, 73; **Prof Sir Laurence Martin**, historian, 75; **Philip Mawer**, secretary-general, General Synod of the Church of England, 51; **Terry O'Neill**, photographer, 60; **Pollyanna Pickering**, wildlife artist, 56; **Peter Plouviez**, trades unionist, 67; **Sonia Proudman**, QC, lawyer, 49; **David Sanborn**, jazz musician, 54; **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, actor, 51; **Sir Clive Sinclair**, inventor, 58; **Daley Thompson**, athlete, 40; **Christopher Warren-Green**, violinist, 43; **Fields Wicker-Miurin**, publisher, 40; **Dame Marjorie Williamson**, former principal, Royal Holloway College, 85; **Rex Williams**, snooker administrator, 65.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

THE list of the new Cabinet (page 4, yesterday) described Chris Smith as Secretary of State at the Department of National Heritage. The DNH became the Department for Culture, Media and Sport last year.

WE wrongly identified the lead singer of the Verve in a photo caption accompanying a report on the Mercury Music Prize shortlist (The Verve reserve their place at the top, page 6, yesterday). His name is Richard Ashcroft.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9697. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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The Guardian

A Country Diary

LOCH ASHIE: This large open loch lies just south of the Great Glen with much of its shoreline stony and exposed with only very small areas of bottle sedge. The loch is surrounded mainly by moorland where black grouse still breed. It is also an area where, unusually even for the Highlands, both the mountain and brown hare are to be found. Both common and black headed gulls nest on the islands and on the moorland breeding waders include curlew, snipe, dunlin and greenshank. However one of the main bird interests is the fact that flocks of the rare Slavonian grebes gather there in the spring: after the breeding season they gather on the loch again to moult and for a short time they are flightless. Thousands of wildfowl frequent the loch in winter, especially greylag geese, wigeon, mallard and teal. There is also the "phantom battle" that has been seen by various people on a number of occasions. According to one observer, it consists of "much cavalry and foot soldiers and on one occasion three-ton trucks, in a haze or mist on an area of peat bog". The ruined house at the southwest end of the loch and the farm at Druimashie are haunted and several people have seen the "phantom car", a grey Morris Minor which mysteriously vanishes on the Essich Road. If that is not enough, on the southwest shore there are two sites that at one time could well have been illicit stills. *RAY COLLIER*

Nikhil Chakravartty

DURING the Emergency in 1976, imposed by the then Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi, the left-wing journalist and commentator Nikhil Chakravartty, who has died aged 83, was in the forefront of the campaign against press censorship.

Affectionately known as "Nikhilda", Chakravartty was one of the most respected figures in Indian journalism. He was the founder-editor of Mainstream, a political journal which he kept alive despite inadequate advertising revenue. A keen supporter of the Indian policy of non-alignment in the struggle between the western and Soviet blocs, in the 1970s he played a key role in setting up a non-aligned newspool. His career in journalism lasted for more than five decades. He was active in debates around social justice, secularism, human rights and tolerance of dissent.

He studied at Oxford, joined the left movement in his youth and later joined the Communist Party of India. Though he ceased to be an active member, he retained his ties with old comrades.

Chakravartty wrote on a variety of subjects in a string of national newspapers and magazines. He campaigned vigorously for the freedom of the press and autonomy of the government-run electronic media — All India Radio and Doordarshan.

From heads of state to aspiring young journalists, Chavravartty had time for all. He possessed that rare quality of making everyone feel they were a special friend with whom confidence could be shared. Atall Behari Vajpayee, the Indian prime minister, described Chakravartty as a fearless journalist. For K R Narayanan, the president, Chakravartty the committed socialist was a man who regarded left and right not in terms of fixed points but as directions. This had given him, Narayanan said, a unique credibility. It did, and the veteran journalist remained a man of great simplicity, completely untainted by pomp and circumstance.

Haresh Pandya

Nikhil Chakravartty, journalist, born September 7, 1914; died June 27, 1998

Death Notices

GRIMSHAW, Phil. Peacefully at home in Whitefield, Manchester on 27th July, 1998, aged 48 years. Dearly loved husband of Penny, much loved father of Samuel and Jessie and the beloved son at Mignon. He was deeply loved and respected by all his family and friends. The funeral service will take place on Monday 3rd August at St. Margarets Church, Prestwich, Manchester at 2 pm to be followed by cremation at the Blackley Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but donations for the benefit of the Cancer Research Campaign, BACKUP, or the Macmillan Nurses Appeal may be sent to Kenneth Dewey & Sons (Funeral Directors), 2 Grove Lane, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 8JE. Telephone: 0161 980 7019.

Births

BALDWIN. On 27th July, to Harriet (née Price) and Stephen, a daughter, Alexandra Charlotte.

DAVIDSON/LACEY. On 17th July, to *Rosemary and Robert*, a son, *Michael*, a brother for Florence.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

هكذا من الاصل

Analysis

The global stock market



Cook looking for beef 8

Not waving but drowning

As computer technology gathers speed, the excitable young men in the colourful jackets on the trading floors of the London futures exchange (right) are being replaced by a few computer screens such as those below linking stock exchanges worldwide. But, Alex Brummer and Jill Treanor warn, the consequence could be a financial crash more devastating than ever before





THE next stock market crash could be so sudden and so devastating that it would dwarf those of October 1929 and 1987, and all the policy makers and regulators in the world will find it impossible to stem the disaster. That could be the ultimate consequence of the trend among international stock markets, bourses and futures and options exchanges for forging alliances and merging trading systems.

The global nature of financial markets was evident in 1987 when panic selling in New York spread to the Pacific and Europe and then back to Wall Street in a horrifying 48 hours during which policy makers struggled to restore confidence. Next time it could be even worse: the decade since 1987 has seen enormous changes in global equity markets. Popular capitalism and shareholding has become more commonplace from the mid-western US to middle Europe and in dozens of emerging markets around the world from Brazil to Zimbabwe. The upsurge in equity investment has been accompanied by tens of thousands of new products, like derivatives built on stock market indices, which are intended to hedge against losses but have made markets far more volatile. And the advance of technology has created screen-based systems which allow dealers in London, or even individuals on the Internet, to buy stocks across the globe on the click of a mouse, or with a single key stroke.

The move towards a single global stock market in the world's top companies is being driven by several factors. There is a demand by an increasing number of global investors for a better geographical spread in their portfolios. Fund managers scour the globe for opportunities.

But the need for armies of skilled analysts is enormous. It would be far cheaper if they could find a defined basket of global shares, which could be tracked by computers, where the decisions are made automatically. That cuts out the need for the support staff and if the stocks are represented by a definable index, opens the possibility of hedging against currency changes, interest rate switches or even a rise and fall in the underlying portfolio, by buying contracts on the next movement in the index on the future and options markets.

A second driver towards a more universal stock market, in Europe in particular, is the arrival of the single European currency — the euro — on January 1, 1999. At a stroke, shares and bonds quoted within the euro area of eleven countries will be priced in a common currency, in much the same way as shares quoted in New York and on North America's West Coast markets. Thus the valuation placed on a bank quoted on the Dublin stock market will be compared with one on the Deutsche Börse in Frankfurt. Fund managers and investors will increasingly think in terms of sectors instead of countries — the European banking or technology sector instead of Spain or Luxembourg.

The inevitable consequence of this and the development of the euro as a reserve currency, in which second or third countries hold their reserves or investments, has been for European markets to come together. Earlier this month two competitors, in the old Europe, the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and the Deutsche Börse, announced to an astonished financial community that they were to form a strategic alliance under which Europe's top 300-400 companies would be together on a common trading platform — a sort of European superleague to take on the Big Board in New York.

THE London-Frankfurt alliance, which is founded on a certain belief that the euro will be a success, is just one of dozens of such strategic deals which could eventually result in a single global market. Nasdaq, the US screen based market on which such new-wave shares as Microsoft and Intel (two of the US's biggest companies) are traded, has recently absorbed the American Stock Exchange, which operates a traditional open outcry system — where people not machines match the orders. Similarly, the American Stock Exchange itself has recently absorbed an East Coast rival, the Philadelphia. The inevitable outcome of such mergers is that the cheaper and more efficient electronic based systems eventually triumph. Having expanded in the US, where it now provides a significant challenge to the world's richest bourse the New York Stock Exchange, Nasdaq is looking for new challenges in Europe. It has held preliminary talks with the Frankfurt exchange, been to Paris and also tried to cut deals in London.

Elsewhere in the US, the Pacific Exchange based in San Francisco — which in recent years has increasingly looked towards Asia — has also been joining the rush to amalgamation. As a first step it has agreed to join the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the world's biggest options market, which specialises in complex derivative products. The two groups are working out the details, including whether it will be possible to operate a common trading platform, one of the issues which is still to be settled between London and Frankfurt. Meanwhile, other European countries like Austria are queuing up to become extra partners in the London-Frankfurt alliance while Paris seeks to align itself with Spain. But the odds are that eventually the sheer size of the quoted sectors in London and Frankfurt will mean that this becomes the dominant electronic trading system for the new Europe and the stepping stone to even more global alliances.

Getting a more global trading system right is one of the toughest challenges all the exchanges face. London has had a troublesome experience with its technology. The stock exchange wasted £400 million developing Taurus, a paperless system which never worked. It was eventually replaced by Crest, itself dogged by teething problems and initially unpopular with its users. The London Stock Exchange then spent another £80 million or so introducing Sets, an electronic system which radically alters the way shares change hands.

While new technology tends to attract controversy, the City's futures and options exchange, Liffe, is feeling the pain of being too slow to embrace it. Liffe — the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange — has suffered the humiliation of losing one of its main contracts to the DTB, a rival, electronic exchange in Germany, because it failed to understand the speed and cost-savings associated with trading by computer screen.

NEXT week Liffe will dump its old method of trading entirely for some of its contracts. The young men in colourful jackets doing deals with one another using hand signals to make themselves understood above the noise of the trading floor have faced up to change. The exhilaration of battling for the best position in trading "pits" will be replaced by endless hours watching prices move on a computer screen.

Without those screens, the idea of a single global exchange would be impossible. The trading floors of Liffe in London and the derivatives exchanges in Chicago are enormous, the size of numerous football pitches joined together. To put them all in one location would be impossible, but the technology to develop a global exchange is available.

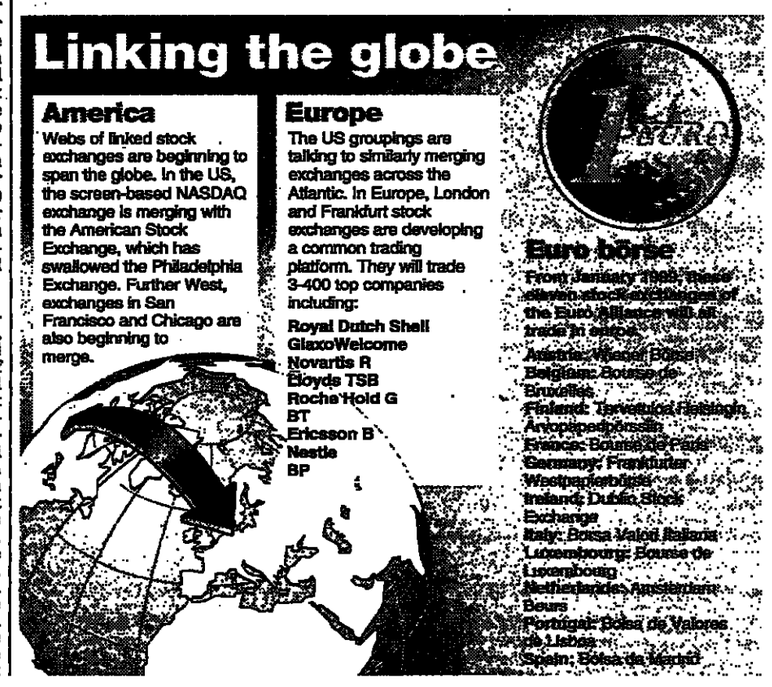
Datastream/ICV, an information provider which is also developing Liffe's new trading system, collects data from 140 exchanges around the world and can display the prices on one screen. It is not quite a "global" exchange. But it is a "global" view of the prices at which shares are changing hands. Robert Rivero, head of product development at Datastream/ICV, said: "People like me will make it look like one exchange". He is working on technology which will make the current trading systems used by exchanges compatible with one another.

The "global" exchange need not be a single exchange. It might turn out to be a number of exchanges, specialising in certain stocks, such as pharmaceuticals, all connected to each other by a common platform. Mr Rivero paints a picture of a dealer looking at the array of prices displayed on a single computer screen. Elf, the giant French oil company, would be listed side-by-side with British Petroleum, for instance. When the dealer clicked on Elf, the order would be routed through to the exchange it was listed on, say the Paris Bourse, while the order for BP would be routed through to London.

For the giant investment banks, themselves in the throes of merging with one another, the implications are that they will no longer need teams of dealers spread around financial centres. It could be good news for London, where many international banks are already basing their European hubs. Equally, though, international bankers could base themselves in the Bahamas, in Luton or even in their own bedrooms, provided they could receive the information they required.

The prospective global stock market poses serious problems for regulators. Patrolling the emerging Internet market in personal financial transactions already is an issue which has troubled global leaders and was raised at the May Group of Eight summit in Birmingham. Regulators are fiercely jealous of their turf. In the US the two most powerful economic figures, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan and the Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, are already in a public battle in Congress over supervision of superbanks which are involved in commercial, investment and insurance activities.

SIMILARLY, the Securities Exchange Commission — which has patrolled share markets since the 1930s — is coming up against the ambitious Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which supervises futures and options markets and believes it should have a strong role now that the lines between shares and futures markets are more blurred. Similar power struggles can be expected among national authorities as transborder link-ups multiply. Unless a sufficiently robust system of enforcement and regulation can be established the chances of bringing any order to the chaos when global markets crash will be even smaller than now.



Graphics: Michael Agar; Stefan Bayley.
Graphic sources: Datastream/ICV; the London Stock Exchange; Financial Times; Netherlands Embassy.
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Alex Brummer is the financial editor and Jill Treanor writes on banking and stock markets for the Guardian.

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FinanceGuardian

The spectre of housing repossessions returns

Liz Stuart and Jill Treanor

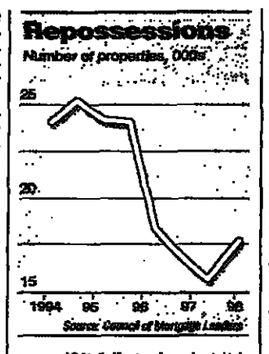
HOME repossessions increased in the first six months of this year for the first time since 1995. The 10 per cent jump in the number of repossessions to 17,310 in the second half of 1997 means that more than 600 people a week are losing their homes, according to figures released yesterday by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

The announcement coincided with the release of figures from the Lord Chancellor's department showing repossession actions up 18 per cent on this time last year.

Housing experts blamed the rises on several factors including interest rate rises, the reduction in mortgage interest tax relief, cuts in income support and a rise in marriage break-ups, which according to one building society, now account for a quarter of all its repossession cases.

The DSS pays a standard interest rate of 8.34 per cent for benefit claimants who lose their jobs and cannot keep up mortgage repayments. Although this is adjusted in line with interest rate rises, it has failed to keep pace with the banks' mortgage rates — the Halifax standard rate is 8.95 per cent.

According to Liz Phelps, social policy officer at the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux: "The income support safety net is no longer sufficient and the shortfall can be as great as £100 a month. Either the benefit should reflect the banks' rates or else be scrapped, because if it falls to do what it is supposed to do, then it is a waste of public money."



The CML and the housing charity Shelter are lobbying for improved protection for mortgage borrowers to ward off the threat of repossession. Shelter wants to see mortgage insurance, also known as accident, sickness and unemployment policies, to be compulsory. Such a policy would cost an average homeowner an extra £20 a month.

"I agree that the cost might put a few people off taking out a mortgage, but that is a small price to pay to prevent the devastation that repossession can cause," said Chris Holmes, director of Shelter.

The policies would not cover arrears — or repossessions — caused by marital breakdown.

The CML was playing down the increases last night, saying that they did not indicate a return to the situation of the early nineties, in which mortgage rates rose above 15 per cent, repossessions reached the 30,000 level and hundreds of thousands of people found their homes worth less than the value of the loan used to pay for it.

"Repossessions remain 55 per cent below their peak and only 2 per cent of all mortgages are in arrears," said Michael Coogan, director-general of the CML.

Abbey National said the number of its customers with mortgage payments in arrears was on the rise. While the increase was small — to 14,704 from 14,692 — the figures reinforced Abbey's belief that the economy is on the turn.

"There is some evidence of some people hitting problems," said Andrew Pople, managing director of Abbey National's retail division.

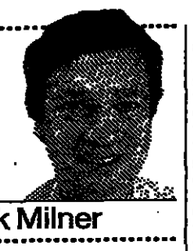
The bank's stock of repossessed properties was up 1 per cent in the first half of the year to nearly 2,000. It is, however, well below the 12,000 homes it repossessed at the height of the recession earlier this decade.

The bank has tightened its lending criteria for all unsecured loans three times this year to avoid the risk of running up bad debts. The citizens' advice bureaux say there is evidence that recently demutualised banks are more quick to repossess.

Further gloom for homeowners came from Nationwide Building Society's quarterly house price survey, which showed a slowdown in the housing market in the second quarter of the year. "Contrary to expectations, market activity faltered in the first half of 1998," Nationwide said, citing sales figures 6 per cent lower than last year.

Notebook

Mortgage aid needs rethink



Mark Milner

THE number of people having their homes repossessed was bound to stop falling at some point. So yesterday's news that the figure is on the rise for the first time for three years will hardly set alarm bells ringing for macroeconomists.

Six rises in interest rates and changes to the income support safety net had to have an effect. An increase in the number of marriages breaking down has also had an impact, according to mortgage lenders.

But even if the figures do not suggest a return to the housing market meltdown of a few years ago, the news that 600 people a week are losing their homes is cause for serious concern.

Council housing departments, and health and social services will face an increasing burden as homelessness wreaks its social havoc. Inevitably the situation will worsen as a slowing economy starts to feed through into the unemployment figures.

Mortgage lenders are suggesting that borrowers should take out mortgage protection policies to guard against the risk of arrears leading to repossession.

That sounds fine on paper but such policies are expensive and are not likely to be an option for people barely able to keep up their mortgage interest payments. It might be better if the lenders tightened their criteria for granting mortgages in the first place.

The housing charity Shelter wants to see mortgage tax relief cut and the savings switched to a mortgage benefit scheme to help those on low incomes or who have become unemployed to keep up with home loan payments.

Deeper cuts in mortgage tax relief might be politically unpopular — though it looks to be a tax break whose time has gone — but it might also actually ease the overall burden on the public purse by keeping more people in their own homes. Worth a thought.

Some analysts are taking an insouciant approach to the possible fall-out. "If the President had an affair, so what?" the Bloomberg news service quoted one institutional investor as asking. More pertinently be added: "I've never seen a market die with interest rates at these levels."

European bourses, however, had other things in mind. Warnings from a couple of big corporates about the adverse impact that Asia has had on first-half results had some investors running for cover. Asian scares are all the more damaging because it is so hard to quantify what the final bill will be from the region's financial crisis.

Come yesterday afternoon, however, and the telecommunications sector was giving European markets a more positive tone as investors pondered the winners and losers from the privatisation of the Brazilian telephone system.

Such rapid mood swings suggest that investors are concerned that markets appear toppy and are looking to sell but cannot quite believe the rush for the exits is really on. In the end, interest rates (both in the US and Europe) rather than Ms Lewinsky or even Asia are likely to hold the key.

Unions' dues

AS WALL STREET looks to events in Washington, so Washington — or its Democratic part — might do well to look at Wall Street, in particular at the General Motors share price. Once the details of the plan to settle the long running strike by United Auto Workers emerged yesterday, GM shares started to fall — a clear enough indication that the car producer has got, at best, a score draw out of the conflict and maybe not even that.

Such a view will boost the standing of the UAW. With the exception of the battle at United Parcel Services just under a year ago, America's unions have tended not to do too well in big set-piece struggles in recent years. After seven years of growth, and unemployment at such a low level, however, even the US's vaunted labour market flexibility may not be enough to stop the unions increasing their clout.

For those in the Democratic Party seeking the presidential nomination, that matters. Contenders may have to pay more attention to wooing organised labour than would have been deemed necessary even a year ago.

As long as they are only contenders relations with the unions matter little enough. But a Democratic president elected with help from a self-confident union movement would have implications both inside and outside the US. Think ahead a couple of years to a US economy looking less robust than it does today and with Asia's troubled tigers still trying to trade their way out of the economic wilderness.

Protectionist arguments might just carry more weight in the White House than they do today.

Topping times

STOCKMARKETS in the US and Europe are looking jittery. Wall Street fell sharply on Tuesday; leading stocks on Europe's bourses opened in less than perky fashion yesterday.

Wall Street is worried, among other things, by the problems surrounding the US presidency now that Monica Lewinsky has been promised immunity if she tells all about her relationship with President Clinton. Much will depend on what Ms Lewinsky has to say and the mileage Mr Clinton's Republican opponents can gain from her revelations.

Credit spree defies fears

Charlotte Denny

CONSUMERS have yet to lose their appetite for borrowing and credit card spending, even though fears of unemployment are rising. That is the picture painted by two of the latest reports on the economy.

Fears about unemployment are mounting in most parts of the UK, according to a survey by Business Strategies, published today.

"Clearly people have been influenced by the warnings that have been given in survey after survey, and by company after company, highlighting the plight of manufacturing," said the report's author, Melanie Lansbury.

That unsecurity has not deterred people from borrowing, particularly on their credit cards. Credit card lending rose to £469 million last month, up from £356 million in May, according to a British Bankers Association report released yesterday.

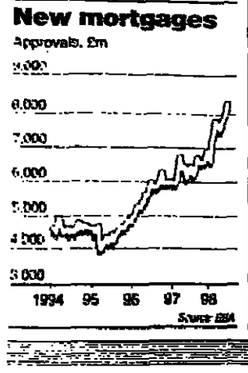
Neil Parker at the Royal Bank of Scotland said distress borrowing — lack of cash forcing use of credit cards — could be boosting the figures for card borrowing.

Growth in mortgage lending helped boost gross borrowing by consumers to £11.5 billion last month. The BBA said the 134,000 new mortgages approved in June represented a record.

Overall net lending to consumers was £1.3 billion in June, slightly down on May but a larger total than City economists expected.

"The continued strength of consumer credit in June is somewhat surprising given the fall-back in retail last month and goes against recent evidence of a deterioration in consumer confidence," said Jonathan Loynes at HSBC Markets.

New mortgages



A victim's tale



ONLY 18 months after completing a training course and becoming general manager of his local car dealership, Peter Brown — not his real name — was catapulted into financial disaster when the business closed and he was made redundant, *writes Liz Stuart.*

The 42-year-old (above), who is married with three children and is the family's sole earner, started claiming unemployment benefit but was switched to sickness benefit when stress-related ulcers and high blood pressure left him unfit for work.

"One of the first things I did was to fill in a DSS form and take it to my local branch of my mortgage lender, Alliance & Leicester, so they could inform head office of my change in circumstances.

"That was in October, and I heard nothing from them until a warrant for possession appeared in June. They had given me no word that my mortage had not been paid — they were claiming not to have received my details.

"Fortunately, I then contacted my local money advice centre. Had I not done that I would already have been repossessed by now."

He was summoned to his local county court and managed to negotiate some extra time. He submitted papers to the A&L again, only for them to be mislaid a second time. Mr Brown still has the threat of repossession hanging over him.

His third court appearance last week stipulated that he pay £30 a month off his arrears — which have reached £4,500 on his original loan of £34,000 — to be reviewed in October.

"My advice to people would be to seek help as soon as possible once they have run into trouble," he said.

Soaring Abbey gets tougher on loans

Jill Treanor

ABBEY NATIONAL is turning away more than 50 per cent of applicants for unsecured loans after tightening its lending criteria three times this year, the bank said yesterday.

Revealing results which ignited the sector with a 21 per cent rise in first-half profits £748 million, Abbey admitted that it was concerned about the level of demand for such loans against a backdrop of a slowdown in the economy.

Andrew Pople, managing director of the retail division, warned that some customers were borrowing from other lenders, suggesting that rivals were storing up problems for themselves.

Profits in the retail banking division rose by 23 per cent, although its share of the mortgage market dipped to 13.8 per cent from 14.3 per cent and it had experienced a slight increase in customers in arrears with their mortgages, Mr Pople said.

Abbey is sitting on excess cash worth up to £400 million but is not planning a share-buy. It could put the money towards funding an acquisition, although it is not considering a merger. If the bank does decide to make acquisition, it is expected to set its sights on an insurer.

Abbey is unlikely to move to bolster its retail banking business — mortgages and savings — and would not be interested in linking up with Nationwide.

Ian Harley, Abbey's new chief executive, unveiled plans to increase income two to three times faster than costs over the next three years.

Abbey's shares rose by nearly 7 per cent and pulled other bank shares with them ahead of speculation about their results which are due shortly. Lloyds TSB shares were also helped higher after Parliament gave its merger, first announced in 1995, the go-ahead. The bank, which reports tomorrow, is now expected to start closing many of the 1,000 or so TSB branches around the country.

Halifax reports its results this morning and is expected to reveal terms of its deal to buy Birmingham Midshires building society.

Insurer predicts 10pc rise in motor premiums

Pauline Springett

MOTOR insurance premiums are set to rise by at least 10 per cent in the next 12 months, the insurer Guardian Royal Exchange warned yesterday.

John Sinclair, head of UK operations, said that the cost of motor insurance was rising fast after several moribund years and had already increased by around 8 per cent in the past year. "Premiums will need to go up by 3 to 6 per cent in the second half of 1998. On top of that, the recent House of Lords decision on liability will add another 2.5 per cent to comprehensive policies and 4.5 per cent to non-comprehensive policies," he said.

Mr Sinclair was referring to the landmark ruling by the House of Lords earlier this month on personal injury compensation. The decision means that injury victims should receive awards based on returns available from index-linked government stocks, which are secure but offer low interest rates.

Previously, compensation payments were based on the returns victims could expect if the cash were invested in the stock market.

The implication is that compensation payments will have to be higher than they had been in the past.

The ruling caused an immediate outcry from the insurance industry, which warned that motor rates would rise. GRE's comments yesterday were significant because they suggest the rate rises could be higher than the industry had predicted.

GRE, the UK's fifth-largest composite insurer, was commenting as it unveiled half-year profits of £451 million, against last year's figure of £497 million.

The figures, which included investment gains of £432 million, were affected by the difficult motor insurance market and severe weather in the early months of the year.

The company said that it was settling down after intense upheaval which involved restructuring its operations as well as a hectic disposal and acquisition programme. Spending in the first half totalled £1.2 billion, including the £1.1 billion acquisition of health-care provider PPP. GRE said the health company was shaping up well and looked on target to deliver the expected 12.5 per cent return on capital as well as boosting GRE's share of the UK health-care market to one-third.

Mr Sinclair said the health-care sector was booming, partly due to the continuing move by individuals and companies towards private

Ex-Japanese premier takes finance minister's job at 78

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

DESPITE repeated assertions that he is too old for one of the most demanding and important jobs in the world, Kiichi Miyazawa, the former Japanese prime minister, finally accepted the post of finance minister yesterday.

The 78-year old statesman, an acknowledged economics expert who last held the finance portfolio in 1988, will be charged with leading Japan out of its worst recession in more than 50 years.

Keizo Obuchi, who is expected to be chosen as prime minister by parliament today, believes the appointment is crucial to the success of his cabinet. "We really need his experience and knowledge of financial affairs to help us to pull through this crisis," he said.

In an intriguing courtship over the past few days, Mr Miyazawa has on several occasions publicly expressed his reluctance to accept what is widely seen as a poisoned chalice, suggesting a younger politician would be more suitable. However, the other likely candidate, Koichi Kato, the right-hand man of departing prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, has ruled himself out of contention.

It is the second time this year that Japan has struggled to find a finance minister. In January, after Hiroshi Mitsuzuka resigned to take responsibility for a bribery scandal, several party heavyweights turned down the post before it was given to Hikaru Matsunaga.

The unwillingness reflects the politically daunting task of reviving the world's second largest economy, which is suffering from negative growth, dismal consumption, record unemployment and bad loans.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.614	Germany 2.831	Malaysia 6.84	Singapore 2.77
Austria 19.85	Greece 470.20	Malta 0.823	South Africa 10.06
Belgium 58.44	Hong Kong 12.40	Netherlands 3.181	Spain 239.25
Canada 2.387	India 70.23	New Zealand 3.10	Sweden 12.67
Cyprus 0.831	Ireland 1.117	Norway 12.06	Switzerland 2.478
Denmark 10.86	Israel 6.03	Portugal 287.66	
Finland 8.69	Italy 2.846		

هكذا من الاصل

Glorious Goodwood

Dettori fined £400 for stalls fiasco

Jockey guilty of misleading starter after his horse wins re-run. **Chris Hawkins** reports

FRANKIE DETTORI was fined £400 by the Goodwood stewards yesterday after being found guilty of trying to mislead the starter Simon Morant, claiming that his mount Threat was "left" at the start in the Doncaster Bloodstock Sales Maiden Stakes.

Dettori yelled that his stall had not opened properly and Morant signalled a false start. But on examination of the film afterwards the stewards saw nothing wrong.

Threat travelled only half a furlong but it was at least three furlongs before the other four runners, including the 2-5 favourite Belasco, could be stopped.

When the race was re-run, Threat won easily by five lengths, with backers of Belasco knowing their fate two furlongs out.

Dettori said: "The others had a fair start I didn't. I lost 10 to 15 lengths. Why should I put up with that? My gate opened and then bounced back.

"But the stewards have ruled that it opened enough and there were not sufficient grounds for me to complain. I shan't appeal, as the starter and the stewards say I'm wrong and it's their word against mine."

It can be argued that Dettori indulged in gamesmanship that materially affected the outcome of the race and in the circumstances he was let off lightly.

If the recall button had not been pressed, there is little doubt Belasco would have won. As it was, he and his backers were penalised for Threat being slowly away.

Robert Sangster, owner of Belasco, said: "There was nothing wrong with the start at all. I saw the replay three times. It's a joke but that's what happens."

Among Men, both physically and in performance, looked a man among boys when running out a convincing winner of the Sussex Stakes to suggest that the three-year-old milers are no great shakes this season.

Lend A Hand, runner-up to King Of Kings in the 2,000 Guineas, Victory Note, triumphant in the French 2,000, and Tarascon, winner of the Irish 1,000, were all soundly beaten and it was left to the the five-year-old Almushtarak to chase home the winner.

There can be few more handsome horses in training than Among Men, who as a four-year-old has matured into a most imposing specimen.

Mick Kinane had him handily placed as Starborough blazed a suicidal trail through the first five furlongs and although Lend A Hand led briefly two out, the issue was never in doubt once Among Men was asked to go about his business.

Michael Stoute, his trainer, has always had a soft spot for this colt, who is by Zilzal, winner of the 1989 Sussex Stakes.

"He was beaten only a couple of lengths in the race last year but now has the power the match his frame," said Stoute. "He's a smashing horse — one of the best lookers I've had — and I'd like to think he'll stay in training next season.

"He had a setback in the spring, which was no good for a horse of his size, and I wasn't too disappointed when he was beaten in the Lockinge at Newbury and at Royal Ascot. We'll now be thinking of the Jacques le Marois and QE II for him."

Among Men is part-owned by Michael Tabor, who has just returned from the Keeneland Sales, where he saw the first foal by his Kentucky Derby winner Thunder Gulch fetch $1 million.

Lend A Hand had every chance and Mark Johnston had no excuses for the colt, who likes to get to the front but could not do so in a race run at a breakneck pace for the first half mile.

Predictably, Starborough could not maintain the gallop and faded to finish fourth, although he ran a lot better than Victory Note, who was last and "fell apart" according to jockey John Reid.



Men at work . . . Among Men, with Mick Kinane up, proves far too good for his rivals in yesterday's Sussex Stakes PHOTOGRAPH: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Amlah's Galway Plate win marred by injury to Maguire

AMLAH, trained in Somerset by Philip Hobbs, became the first British winner of the Galway Plate yesterday. But the valuable Irish chase saw the luckless Adrian Maguire take another nasty tumble, *writes Ron Cox.*

Maguire was taken to hospital after coming off Gales Cavalier at the second fence.

"Adrian has a badly bruised right knee, having been trodden on by one of the other horses. But subject to the result of X-rays I don't think there is anything broken," reported Turf Club medical officer Walter Halley.

The second fence was dolled off on the final circuit as medical personnel attended to Maguire, and the loose-running Gales Cavalier nearly cost Amlah the race when carrying Brendan Powell's mount very wide on the long run-in.

"I had planned to come wide after the last anyway, but the loose horse forced me even further out than I wanted. But at least he helped my horse get home by giving him something to race with," explained Powell.

Amlah, a 16-1 shot, kept on strongly to beat Lucky Town by 13 lengths in the colours of Salvo Giannini, who headed the syndicate which owned 1997 Irish Grand National winner Mudahim.

Kayf Tara to complete stayers' Cup double

Ron Cox

KAYF TARA, doubtful for today's Goodwood Cup until yesterday's showers eased the ground, can show his surprise Ascot Gold Cup win was no fluke by completing a notable stayers' double.

Going into last month's Ascot race, Kayf Tara, an 11-1 shot having only his fifth outing in public, had something to find. He came out of it unquestionably the most improved long-distance runner around.

The Godolphin colt answered all Frankie Dettori's calls to beat Double Trigger a neck and had Three Cheers another length and a quarter back in third, with Canon Can fifth and Celeric eighth.

A full-brother to the high class Opera House, who improved steadily with age, Kayf Tara should also continue on the upgrade.

Double Trigger is difficult to predict nowadays, but has won two Goodwood Cups in his time and rates a big danger to Kayf Tara on 2lb better terms than at Ascot.

Trainer Mark Johnston reports Double Trigger close to his best racing weight — 478 kilos, compared with 475 kilos when successful here last year and four lighter than in the Ascot Gold Cup. How useful it would be if such information was regularly available to the betting public.

Celeric has been showing signs of a revival in his home work, but the ground has gone against him and Kayf Tara (3.20) looks the most reliable proposition.

Pasternak is all the rage in the morning prices on the William Hill Mile, but whether this course and distance is right for him remains to be seen. I prefer the well-drawn Brave Reward (3.50), who had no luck in running last time out at Sandown and is relatively unexposed.

Back to seven furlongs. Beraysim (2.15) is the nap in the Oak Tree Stakes. She ran out of puff in the closing stages of the one-mile Falmouth Stakes last time after quickening ahead with a furlong to run.

Goodwood Jackpot card with form guide

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.15	Beraysim (nap)	Nanoushka
2.45	Muqtarib	Rosselli
3.20	Kayf Tara	Samraan
3.50	Brave Reward	King Slayer (nap)
4.25	Ghazeenah (nb)	Ghazeenah
5.00	Double Choice	Ingenious
5.35	Alsahib	Knave's Ash

Straight six furlongs with adjoining loop providing right-hand turn in races of more than 7f. Gradients and sharp bends not ideal for long-striding horse.
Going: Good to soft. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best in 3.50 and 5.35 races.
Seven day winners: 5.35 Knave's Ash.
Blinkered first time: 5.35 Roborant. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.15 OAK TREE STAKES (fillies & mares) 7f £22,450 (11 declared) BBC1

101 (10) 116-40 Brave Kris (26) L Cumani 4-9-0 — G Pacifer 84
102 (7) 111-42 Ignija (28) (D) H Cecil 4-9-0 — K Fallon 86
103 (2) 33-304 Much Commended (36) G Wragg 4-9-0 — Paul Eddery 82
104 (1) 0-2014 Ashraakat (20) (D) (BF) J Dunlop 3-8-10 — R Hills 92
105 (11) 4-6101 Nanoushka (28) (D) R Hannon 3-8-10 — Pat Eddery ●98
106 (6) -25341 Akarita (20) B McMahon 3-8-7 — T Quinn 88
107 (4) 221 Aloha Dancer (88) (D) B Hills 3-8-7 — D Holland 88
108 (9) 214 Beraysim (22) (CD) M Jarvis 3-8-7 — L Dettori 86
109 (5) 005002 Crazee Mental (20) D Haydn Jones 3-8-7 — A Mackay 96
110 (8) 6116-1 Khayrab (59) (D) E Dunlop 3-8-7 — P Robinson 90
111 (3) 35-332 Thanksgiving (49) (BF) D Chappell 3-8-7 — J Reid 78

Betting: 5-2 Beraysim, 11-4 Ignija, 9-2 Nanoushka, 6-1 Ashraakat, 8-1 Crazee Mental, 10-1 Khayrab, 16-1 Brave Kris, 20-1 Much Commended, 25-1 Akarita, Aloha Dancer, 33-1 Thanksgiving.

FORM GUIDE - Brave Kris: Started slowly, pulled hard, always behind, 10th of 13, 8l behind For Your Eyes Only at Sandown 1m hcap, Gd-Sft. Ignija: Chased winner, ridden over 1f out, not quicken inside final f, 2nd of 4, 2l behind Among Men at Yarmouth 7f stks, Gd-Fm. Much Commended: Tracked leaders, ridden, not quicken approaching final f, 4th of 7, 5l behind Hunters Of Brora at Newcastle 1m lts, Gd. Nanoushka: Raced alone centre, made all, clear over 2f out, easily, beat Crazee Mental (rec. 4lb) 3l. Ashraakat (levels) 4th of 7, btn 9l, at York 6f, Gd-Fm. Akarita: Chased leader, led over 2f out, ran on well inside final f, won by 3l from Swan Island at Chester 1m mdn lts, Gd-Fm. Aloha Dancer: Led, headed over 1f out, hard ridden to lead near finish, won by nk from Summer Deal at Warwick 7f mdn, Gd-Fm. Beraysim: Chased leaders, led well over 1f out, no extra, 4th of 13, 4l behind Lovers Knot at Newmarket 1m Grp 2, Fm. Khayrab: Headway to chase leader 2f out, ran on under pressure to lead near finish, won by nk from Sapphire Ring at Leicester 7f 3y lts, Fm. Thanksgiving: With winner, every chance and ridden 2f out, beaten approaching final furlong, 2nd of 4, 6l behind March Star at Yarmouth 6f stks, Sft.

2.45 RICHMOND STAKES 2YO 6f £24,350 (4 declared) BBC1

201 (2) 111 Rosselli (42) J Berry 9-0 — J Carroll ●90
202 (3) 1 Istidlaar (20) (D) S bin Suroor 8-11 — L Dettori 88
203 (4) 12 Muqtarib (24) (CD) (BF) J Dunlop 8-11 — R Hills 85
204 (1) 2221 Sarson (27) R Hannon 8-11 — Dane O'Neill 84

Betting: 13-8 Rosselli, 7-4 Istidlaar, 9-2 Muqtarib, 5-1 Sarson.

FORM GUIDE - Rosselli: Held up, led over 1f out, hard ridden, ran on well, won by 4l from Sheer Viking at Ascot 5f Grp 3, Sft. Istidlaar: Prominent, led over 2f out, quickened inside final furlong, comfortably, won by 3l from Indian Warrior at Lingfield 6f 2y mdn, Gd-Fm. Muqtarib: Held up, headway to chase winner over 2f out, hard ridden, unable to quicken, 2nd of 4, 3l behind El Tango at Goodwood 6f nov, Gd. Sarson: Started slowly, hard ridden and headway on inside over 1f out, led last strides, won by nk from Sapiro at Sandown 5f Listed, Gd-Sft.

3.20 GOODWOOD CUP (SHOWCASE RACE) 2m £40,000 (10 declared) BBC1

301 (9) 42 060 Celeric (42) (D) J Dunlop 6-9-7 — Pat Eddery 82
302 (3) 21-131 Kayf Tara (42) S bin Suroor 4-9-7 — L Dettori 88
303 (4) 45 602 Double Trigger (42) (CD) M Johnston 7-9-5 — D Holland 85
304 (2) 014 05 Canon Can (42) (D) H Cecil 5-9-2 — K Fallon 84
305 (10) 00210- Grey Shot (J168) (CD) I Balding 6-9-2 — G Pacifer 82
306 (5) 061 32 Samraan (66) J Dunlop 5-9-2 — W R Swinburn ●90
307 (7) 5110-6 Single Empire (23) P Chapple-Hyam 4-9-2 — J Reid 80
308 (8) 11 043 Three Cheers (42) J Gosden 4-9-2 — J Carroll ★ 88
309 (1) 42-102 Yorkshire (41) (BF) P Cole 4-9-2 — T Quinn 82
310 (6) 3-2311 Brimming (12) H Cecil 3-8-1 — J Quinn 80

Betting: 11-4 Kayf Tara, 4-1 Three Cheers, 5-1 Double Trigger, 6-1 Samraan, 7-1 Brimming, 9-1 Canon Can, 12-1 Single Empire, Yorkshire, 14-1 Celeric, 16-1 Grey Shot.

FORM GUIDE - Kayf Tara: Held up, headway over 5f out, led final furlong, stayed on strongly, won by nk from Double Trigger (levels). Three Cheers (levels) 3rd of 16 btn 2l. Canon Can (levels), 5th, btn 14l. Celeric (levels), 8th, btn 22l at Ascot 2m 4f Grp 1, Sft. Grey Shot: Led to 5f out, weakened quickly once headed, 10th of 11, 34l behind Ebadiyla at Longchamp 1m 7f Grp 1, Gd-Sft. Samraan: Held up, ridden over 3f out, chased leader 2f out, ran on, 2nd of 11, 1l behind Persian Punch at Sandown 2m Grp 3, Gd-Fm. Single Empire: Pulled hard, in touch, kept on inside final furlong, 6th of 7, 7l behind Trulls Of Love at Newmarket 1m 6f Grp 1, 2nd of 11, 1l behind Dover Star at Ascot 2m stks, Gd-Sft. Brimming: Made most, clear over 1f out, ran on well, won by 8l from Leading Spirit at Newbury 1m 5f hcap, Gd-Fm.

3.50 WILLIAM HILL MILE H'CAP (SHOWCASE RACE) 1m £64,350 (22 declared) BBC2

401 (21) 40-502 Bold Words (28) (D) E Dunlop 4-9-10 — Pat Eddery ★●90
402 (6) 32101 For Your Eyes Only (28) (D) T Easterby 4-9-6 — J Weaver ★ 83
403 (9) 020512 Lahoq (12) P Walwyn 4-9-5 — R Hills 84
404 (10) 11-22 Pasternak (12) (BF) Sir M Prescott 5-9-4 — G Duffield 84
405 (22) 202034 Gulf Shaadi (28) (D) F Aston 6-9-0 — K Fallon 84
406 (13) 11400 Yabint El Sultan (22) (D) B McMahon 4-8-13 — J Reid 80
407 (7) 0-1400 Right Wing (49) (D) J Dunlop 4-8-13 — G Pacifer 77
408 (20) 40003 Prince Of My Heart (45) (D) D Haydn Jones 5-8-11 — T Quinn 79
409 (2) 040314 No Extras (19) (CD) G L Moore 8-8-11 — W R Swinburn 87
410 (19) 214210 Refuse To Lose (19) (D) J Eustace 4-8-10 — J Tate 85
411 (1) 4 3110 Brilliant Red (131) (D) P Hedger 5-8-8 — A Clark 75
412 (16) 034213 Pantar (19) (CD) (BF) I Balding 3-8-8 — K Darley 77
413 (17) 0-3000 Concer Un (28) (D) S C Williams 6-8-5 — D Holland 77
414 (4) 16 305 Risque Lady (56) P Harris 3-8-4 — C Lowther 79
415 (18) 3 5300 Brave Reward (26) (BF) Sir M Stoute 3-8-3 — T Sprake 78
416 (8) 102350 Theben (5) (D) B Millman 5-8-2 — A Whelan 85
417 (5) 0-211 Tomasino (28) (5lb ex) (D) Miss A Egan 5-8-3 — D Harrison 85
418 (11) 132022 King Slayer (15) B Smart 3-8-0 — J Quinn ●90
419 (15) 045102 La Modiste (12) (D) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-0 — N Pollard (5) 82
420 (15) 000-16 Hurtleberry (18) (D) Lord Huntingdon 5-7-13 — Aimee Cook (5) 79
421 (3) U00302 Tertium (8) (D) N Littmoden 6-7-10 — R Mullen (3) 75
422 (17) 530300 Pride Of Pendle (14) (D) M Wane 9-7-10 — P Fitzsimons (7) 73

Hill's betting: 4-1 Pasternak, 7-1 Brave Reward, 10-1 Gulf Shaadi, King Slayer, Refuse To Lose, 14-1 Lahoq, No Extras, Pantar, Tomasino, 16-1 For Your Eyes Only, La Modiste, 22-1 Risque Lady, 25-1 Hurtleberry, Prince Of My Heart, Right Wing, 28-1 Bold Words, Concer Un, Tertium, Yabint El Sultan, 33-1 Theben, 40-1 Brilliant Red, 50-1 Pride Of Pendle.

Coral betting: 3-1 Pasternak, 6-1 Brave Reward, 10-1 Gulf Shaadi, 11-1 King Slayer, 12-1 Refuse To Lose, 14-1 No Extras, La Modiste, Pantar, 16-1 Tomasino, 18-1 For Your Eyes Only, Lahoq, 25-1 Bold Words, Prince Of My Heart, Right Wing, Tertium, 28-1 Risque Lady, Yabint El Sultan, Theben, 33-1 Concer Un, Hurtleberry, 50-1 Brilliant Red, 66-1 Pride Of Pendle.

Tote betting: 9-2 Pasternak, 6-1 Brave Reward, 10-1 Gulf Shaadi, Refuse To Lose, 11-1 King Slayer, Pantar, 16-1 Lahoq, No Extras, Tomasino, For Your Eyes Only, La Modiste, 20-1 Right Wing, Hurtleberry, Prince Of My Heart, 25-1 Risque Lady, Yabint El Sultan, Bold Words, Tertium, 33-1 Concer Un, Theben, 50-1 Brilliant Red, Pride Of Pendle.

Ladbrokes betting: 4-1 Pasternak, 7-1 Brave Reward, 10-1 Gulf Shaadi, King Slayer, Refuse To Lose, 12-1 Pantar, 14-1 La Modiste, 16-1 No Extras, 18-1 Lahoq, Prince Of My Heart, Tomasino, For Your Eyes Only, 22-1 Right Wing, 25-1 Bold Words, Concer Un, Tertium, Hurtleberry, Theben, 28-1 Yabint El Sultan, Risque Lady, 66-1 Brilliant Red, Pride Of Pendle.

FORM GUIDE - Bold Words: Led until over 1f out, stayed on same pace, 2nd of 4, 13l behind Lucayan Indian at York 1m stks, Gd-Fm. For Your Eyes Only: Not clear run over 2f out, headway over 1f out, strong run to led last strides, won by hd from Almond Rock, Theben (rec 11lb), 3rd of 13, btn 2l, Gulf Shaadi (rec 1lb) 4th, btn 2l, Brave Reward (rec 12lb), 8th, btn 4l, Concer Un (rec 8lb), 12th, btn 10l, at Sandown 1m hcap, Gd-Sft. Lahoq: Chased leader, led over 3f out until over 2f out, unable to quicken, 2nd of 5, 7l behind Chester House at Newbury 1m Listed, Gd-Fm. Pasternak: Close up, 2nd halfway, led 2f out, caught close home, 2nd of 12, shd behind Haganat at Leopardstown 1m 1f hcap, Gd-Fm. Yabint El Sultan: Chased leaders until gradually weakened final 2f, 9th of 13, 7l behind Lovers Knot at Newmarket 1m Grp 2, Fm. Prince Of My Heart: Behind, good headway over 2f out, finished well, 3rd of 32, 4l behind Refuse To Lose. Right Wing (rec 4lb), 17th, btn 19l, at Ascot 1m hcap, Gd-Sft. No Extras: Never near to challenge, 4th of 7, 9l behind Fizzed at Lingfield 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Refuse To Lose: Chased leaders, led over 3f out, soon headed, weakened final furlong, 8th of 20, 6l behind Porto Foricos at York 1m, Fm. Brilliant Red: Prominent over 4f, 10th of 14, 47l behind Running Stag at Lingfield 1m stks, Std. Pantar: Held up, ridden over 3f out, one pace, 3rd of 7, 5l behind Fizzed at Lingfield 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Risque Lady: Ridden over 3f out, good headway over 1f out, strong run final furlong, finish well, 5th of 17, 1l behind Apache Red at Epsom 7f hcap, Gd. Tomasino: Led 4l, led 2f out, all out, won by nk from King Slayer (levels) at Lingfield 7f stks, Gd-Fm. King Slayer: Ridden over 2f out, headway 1f out, ran on one pace, 2nd of 9, 2l behind Rainald at Newbury 7f stks, Gd-Fm. La Modiste: Held up, outpaced over 2f out, headway over 1f out, ran on, 2nd of 5, 1½l behind Silca Blanka at Warwick 7f stakes, Gd-Fm. Hurtleberry: Always prominent, led over 1f out until inside final furlong, soon weakened, 6th of 13, 4l behind Silk St John at Newbury 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Tertium: Headway over 1f out, not clear run 1f out, switched right, ran on well inside final furlong, 2nd of 16, 1l behind Supercool at Ascot 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Pride Of Pendle: Behind, headway over 2f out, stayed on towards finish, 8th of 17, 6l behind Thaoeb at Doncaster 7f hcap, Fm.

4.25 EBF NEW HAM MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO 7f £10,455 (8 declared)

501 (4) Blonic H Cecil 8-11 — K Fallon —
502 (3) 0 Hula Angel (25) B Hills 8-11 — D Holland 80
503 (5) 00 Lady Moorings (51) M Blanshard 8-11 — C Rutter —
504 (8) 5 Miss Amanpuri (12) G Wragg 8-11 — M Roberts 83
505 (7) Musical Treat P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 — J Reid —
506 (1) 3 Ghazeenah (21) J Dunlop 8-11 — R Hills ●90
507 (5) 02 Route Sixty Six (12) G L Moore 8-11 — W R Swinburn 85
508 (2) 6 Taradiya (21) L Cumani 8-11 — G Pacifer 87

Betting: 4-6 Ghazeenah, 11-4 Blonic, 8-1 Musical Treat, Taradiya, 33-1 Route Sixty Six, Miss Amanpuri.

FORM GUIDE - Blonic: Zalonic filly out of a very useful French mare. Hula Angel: Started slowly, headway 2f out, weakened over 1f out, 7th of 10, 12l behind Aljabr at Sandown 7f 2y mdn, Gd-Sft. Lady Moorings: Always behind, 11th of 13, 26l behind Woore Lass at Salisbury 6f mdn lts, Gd-Sft. Miss Amanpuri: Headway 4f out, pushed along over 1f out, ran on final furlong, 5th of 9, 40l behind Lujain at Newmarket 6f 2y auct, Fm. Musical Treat: Royal Academy filly out of the useful miler Mountain Ash. Ghazeenah: Dwelt, headway halfway, ran on steadily final furlong, promising, 3rd, 1½l behind Mystical Girl, Taradiya (levels) 6th of 10, btn 4½l, at Newmarket 6f mdn lts, Fm. Route Sixty Six: Led 6f, not quicken, 2nd of 16, 2½l behind Herb of Grace at Warwick 7f 2y mdn auct, Gd-Fm.

5.00 LAVANT NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO 5f £7,059 (6 declared)

601 (5) 131046 Champagne Rider (12) (D) K McAuliffe 9-7 — J Reid 82
602 (3) 631152 Snap Cracker (18) (D) M Chann 9-0 — F Norton 84
603 (5) 01430 Dilliconaire (20) R Hannon 8-8 — Pat Eddery 84
604 (4) 644 Ingenious (30) W Jarvis 8-2 — J Quinn ●90
605 (2) 013 Charlie Girl (26) (D) (BF) J Berry 7-13 — P Fessey 88
606 (1) 4481 Double Choice (8) (6lb ex) (D) R Hannon 7-11 — P Fitzsimons (7) 85

Betting: 9-4 Snap Cracker, 3-1 Double Choice, 9-2 Champagne Rider, 5-1 Ingenious, 7-1 Dilliconaire, 9-1 Charlie Girl.

FORM GUIDE - Champagne Rider: Headway and not much room over 1f out, ran on inside final furlong, 6th of 19, 2l behind Flanders at Newbury 5f 2y auct, Gd-Fm. Snap Cracker: Switched left 2f out, led over 1f out, hard ridden, headed well inside final furlong, 2nd of 4, 1l behind Aegean Flame at Newbury 5f 2y lts, Gd-Fm. Dilliconaire: Ridden over 3f out, always behind, last of 7, 13l behind Bermuda at Chepstow 5f nov, Gd. Ingenious: Pulled hard, with leaders until over 1f out, weakened final furlong, 4th of 9, 7l behind Halfos at Nottingham 6f 2y mdn, Gd-Fm. Charlie Girl: Pulled hard, led 4l, soon ridden and beaten, 3rd of 7, 6l behind Miss Fit at Carlisle 6f nov, Gd-Fm. Double Choice: Always prominent, led over 2f out, ran on well, won by 13l from Boa Ami at Leicester 5f auct, Fm.

5.35 DRAWING ROOM HANDICAP 1m 1f £8,229 (22 declared)

1 (11) 422326 Plan For Profit (146) (BF) M Johnston 4-10-0 — D Holland 85
2 (10) -40210 Blastoidive (13) J Hills 5-9-11 — R Hills 83
3 (20) 30-005 Albarra (22) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-9 — T Quinn 83
4 (16) 100200 Threadneedle (6) K Burke 5-9-8 — N Callan (5) 85
5 (3) 14-001 Central Committee (12) P Chapple-Hyam 3-9-7 — R Havlin (3) 85
6 (15) 0-0310 Roborant (24) J Dunlop 3-9-5 — K Fallon ★ 82
7 (4) 005150 Loyal Toast (23) (C) L Cumani 3-8-4 — L Dettori 84
8 (2) 501641 Sea Danzig (15) (CD) J Bridger 5-9-3 — R Studholme (5) 84
9 (7) 042 Storm Cat (65) K McAuliffe 3-9-3 — M Roberts ★ 77
10 (9) 4-1355 Ribblesdale (13) J Dunlop 3-9-1 — Pat Eddery ★ 82
11 (17) 633233 No Cliches (10) D Nicholls 5-9-0 — P Doe (5) ★ 77
12 (13) 51-402 Absolute Utopia (34) N Berry 5-9-0 — T Sprake 78
13 (13) 025435 Zoro (16) (BF) J R Poulton 5-8-13 — R Mullen (3) 73
14 (21) 036114 With A Will (12) (D) H Candy 4-8-12 — Nicola Wright (7) 79
15 (16) -31050 Alsahib (28) (D) W Muir 5-8-11 — Martin Dwyer 77
16 (1) 353042 Tallulah Belle (10) (D) (BF) N Littmoden 5-8-11 — G Pacifer 83
17 (8) 40-340 Tribal Peace (65) (CD) B Gubby 5-8-10 — J Carroll 75
18 (19) 000261 Knave's Ash (6) D Nicholls 7-8-9 — J Tate ●90
19 (22) 0-6030 Present Situation (24) (C) (D) (BF) Lord Huntingdon 7-8-8 — Aimee Cook (5) 80
20 (14) 612023 Bosnian Beat (18) G L Moore 7-8-8 — Candy Morris 80
21 (6) 000-62 Desert Time (22) (C) C Horgan 8-8-6 — J Reid 77
22 (5) 000800 Jackley (7) R Ingram 4-8-4 — N Pollard (5) 77

Betting: 8-1 Alsahib, 9-1 Knave's Ash, 10-1 Central Committee, Plan For Profit, Loyal Toast, 12-1 Dimnotrue, Roborant, Tallulah Belle, No Cliches, 14-1 Ribblesdale, 16-1 With A Will, Absolute Utopia, Sea Danzig

Doncaster

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.00	Paradise Navy	Paradise Navy
2.35	Charmes	Charmes
3.05	Muktathir	Muktathir
3.40	Eljanah	Emperor Naheem
4.15	Bateleur	Forest Robin
4.50	Inchalong	Samwar

Left-handed, galloping track of 1m7f with 4½f run-in. Straight mile.
Going: Good to firm. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Draw: No advantage.
Seven day winners: 3.40 Emperor Naheem; 4.15 Kosevo.
Blinkered first time: None. Visored: 3.40 Easter Ogil.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

2.00 ORIENT EXPRESS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP 2m 110yds £2,406 (11 declared)

1 (7) 15000 Wishing (66) T D McCarthy 7-11-7 — T McCarthy —
2 (2) 433132 Paradise Navy (13) (CD) C Egerton 9-11-7 — Miss E Bunsden ★ ●90
3 (6) 05434 Bersaglio (7) W Jarvis 3-10-10 — C Bonner 82
4 (10) -00360 Cliburnel News (27) (D) D Shaw 8-10-6 — Mrs S Bosley 80
5 (8) 522211 Brodessa (15) (D) Mrs M Reveley 12-10-5 — A Dempsey 85
6 (5) 351044 Mazzelmo (6) (D) A Bailey 5-10-3 — Miss B Gatehouse (5) 83
7 (11) 00-004 Ellerbeck (10) J Jefferson 3-9-9 — R Fenstaff (5) —
8 (3) 023212 Saint Albert (6) (BF) P Walwyn 3-9-9 — Miss S Samworth (5) 87
9 (4) 600515 Nosey Native (27) (BF) J Pearce 5-9-8 — Mrs L Pearce 83
10 (1) 00000/ Nose (485) P Hedger 10-9-7 — W Onis-Powlett (7) —
11 (9) 00-001 Allrighton (10) (5lb ex) (D) C Thornton 3-9-6 — J Crowley (5) 82

Betting: 4-1 Saint Albert, 9-2 Brodessa, 11-2 Paradise Navy, 6-1 Nosey Native, 13-2 Mazzelmo, 7-1 Cliburnel News, Allrighton.

2.35 LAMBTON'S CONDITIONS STAKES 2YO 7f £4,579 (4 declared)

1 (4) 31 Charmes (18) (D) J Gosden 9-0 — W Ryan ●90
2 (2) 0 El Karim (18) (BF) J Dunlop 8-11 — G Carter —
3 (3) -606-Laurel Prince (16) J Berry 8-11 — O Pears 77
4 (1) 211 Courtesan (23) (C) Mrs J Ramsden 8-6 — J Fortune 84

Betting: 5-4 Charmes, 11-8 El Karim, 7-2 Courtesan, 25-1 Laurel Prince.

3.05 FLYING SCOTSMAN CONDITIONS STAKES 1m £5,210 (3 declared)

1 (1) 422535 West-A-Minute (15) (D) R Hollinshead 5-8-11 — R Cochrane 80
2 (2) 120-32 Muktathir (81) J Gosden 3-8-3 — W Ryan ●90
3 (3) 1-343 Soltwa (11) L Cumani 3-8-3 — D Young (7) 82

Betting: 1-5 Muktathir, 6-1 Soltwa, 8-1 West-A-Minute.

3.40 WARD'S BEST BITTER HANDICAP 3YO 6f £3,883 (12 declared)

1 (2) 46-330 Prix Star (26) C Fairhurst 9-7 — R Cochrane ★ 84
2 (10) -10024 Easter Ogil (14) I Balding 9-5 — S Whitworth ★ 86
3 (8) 4-0000 Only For Gold (33) J Berry 9-4 — P Bradley (7) —
4 (11) 032-63 Eljanah (14) J Dunlop 9-4 — G Carter 88
5 (4) 051030 Anstand (18) (D) (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 9-3 — J Fortune 85
6 (6) 002400 Julies Jewel (6) (C) (D) M Chapman 9-2 — S Curran (7) 79
7 (7) 035061 Emperor Naheem (7) (6lb ex) B Meehan 8-13 — M Tebbutt ●90
8 (3) -30414 Oil (46) (C) Mrs N Macauley 8-11 — P McCabe 83
9 (9) 000000 Arian Da (6) B Palling 8-10 — A McCarthy (3) 80
10 (1) 200105 Demolition Jo (8) (D) P Evans 8-10 — J F Egan ★ 85
11 (12) 40-003 Cool Secret (18) (D) K Ryan 8-3 — J Stack 87
12 (5) 540043 Leofric (6) M Polglase 7-10 — A Polli (5) ★ 77

Betting: 4-1 Emperor Naheem, 9-2 Anstand, 11-2 Eljanah, 6-1 Easter Ogil, 10-1 Prix Star, Julies Jewel, Oil, Demolition Jo, Cool Secret, Leofric.

4.15 CHARNWOOD FORRESTER HANDICAP 7f £3,600 (22 declared)

1 (2) 000124 Daryabad (13) (D) R McGhin 6-9-10 — R Cochrane ★ 79
2 (5) 102632 Finisterre (6) (D) J J O'Neill 5-9-10 — W Ryan 87
3 (5) 432155 Gaily Mill (18) (D) I Balding 3-9-6 — S Whitworth 77
4 (21) 543-00 O' Higgins (22) D Morris 3-9-3 — M Tebbutt —
5 (16) 201052 Tycoon's Freeloors (12) (D) (BF) G Holmes 10-9-3 — A Culhane ★ 77
6 (7) 040360 Desirae (14) (D) D Murray Smith 6-9-2 — A McCarthy (3) 79
7 (8) 040060 Mitto's Double (6) (D) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-2 — J F Egan ★ 73
8 (9) 031411 Distant King (16) G Kelly 5-9-1 — P Goode (7) 77
9 (6) 100343 Dominelle (13) (C) T Easterby 6-8-13 — S Sanders 77
10 (17) 310412 Forest Robin (6) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-12 — J Fortune ●90
11 (15) 210000 Oriole (16) (D) Enrico Incisa 5-8-9 — Kim Tinkler ★ 77
12 (20) 420211 Kosevo (5) (6lb ex) (D) D Shaw 4-8-8 — M Fenton ★ 75
13 (1) 404502 Bateleur (12) (D) W Musson 4-8-7 — J Fowle (7) 83
14 (19) 050005 Bataleur (14) G Woodward 5-8-6 — G Carter 73
15 (13) 3-0404 Miss Peregrine (22) N Babbage 4-8-4 — R Winston (5) 70
16 (4) 062000 Allinson's Mate (45) (CD) T Barron 10-8-3 — Kimberley Hart (5) ★ —
17 (14) 0-4050 Wisdom (32) J Bethel 5-8-0 — S Drowne ★ 77
18 (22) 053343 Madam Street (14) P Evans 5-7-12 — G Cogan (7) ★ 76
19 (10) -06600 Lunar Music (13) S Bowring 4-7-11 — N Kennedy 73
20 (12) 023020 Serapa (16) M Pelli 5-7-11 — Dale Gibson 78
21 (18) 000021 Kombucky (6) (D) K Ryan 6-7-11 — B Byrnes (7) ★ 79
22 (11) 036302 Pulmana (6) P Dalton 3-7-10 — J Bramhill 70

Betting: 7-1 Distant King, Forest Robin, 8-1 Daryabad, Dominelle, 10-1 Finisterre, Kosevo, Bateman, Kombucky.

4.50 'SIR NIGEL GRESLEY' CLASSIFIED STAKES 6f £2,872 (7 declared)

1 (6) 031432 Double March (13) (D) (BF) K Ivory 5-9-4 — G Faulkner (3) 88
2 (3) 055006 Cadeaux Cher (13) (CD) B Hills 4-9-1 — R Cochrane 82
3 (5) 040030 Samwar (18) (D) (BF) Miss G Kelleway 6-9-1 — S Sanders ●90
4 (7) 0-4101 Bolshaya (13) (D) J Berry 3-8-13 — J Fortune 88
5 (4) 434401 Inchalong (18) (D) M Britain 3-8-10 — G Carter ★ 88
6 (3) 0324 Glowing (16) J Fanshawe 3-8-7 — A McGlone 85
7 (1) 10-500 Vax Rapide (65) I Williams 3-8-7 — M Fenton —

Betting: 11-4 Bolshaya, 7-2 Inchalong, 9-2 Double March, Glowing, 5-1 Samwar, 11-2 Cadeaux Cher, 33-1 Vax

Newton Abbot (N.H.)

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.25	Cresswell Quay	Mite Equal
2.55	Gumair	Brush With Fame
3.30	King Of Sparta	King Of Sparta
4.05	Sheriff	Palladium Boy
4.40	Caspoian Beluga	Mrs Em
5.15	Casual Water	Supermick

Tight, left-handed circuit of 1¼m; run-in 300yds.
Going: Good to firm, firm in places. ★ Denotes blinkers. ● Top form rating.
Seven day winners: 5.15 Supermick.
Blinkered first time: 2.55 Pablo's Jet, Rocky Romance; 4.05 Pride Of Kashmir; 4.40 Yaakum. Visored: 2.55 Oliver's Secret.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F.Flat.

2.25 GROSVENOR HOTEL MAIDEN HURDLE 2m 1f £2,412 (13 declared)

1 P/P1-P Castlemorris (8) H Laws 7-11-3 — T Murphy —
2 60- Cresswell Quay (171) P Bowen 5-11-3 — G Llewellyn —
3 P23F-U Karlie's Quest (22) R Frost 7-11-3 — J Frost —
4 004-2U Mite Equal (8) (D) (BF) M Pipe 5-11-3 — R Johnson ●90
5 2PPP- Pc's Cruiser (134) D Turner 6-11-3 — R Greene —
6 2/4- Sawaab (87) P Hobbs 6-11-3 — R Widger (7) —
7 363P3/ Schnozzle (F40) K Bridgwater 7-11-3 — G Bradley —
8 43 Massasaba Mubaraka (24) A Barrow 4-11-0 — L Cummins (5) 83
9 533 Zorba (15) J O'Shea 4-11-0 — M Brennan 86
10 P/34- Dramatic Act (285) G Edwards 5-10-12 — M A Fitzgerald —
11 4362-4 Indian Nectar (40) R Brotherton 5-10-12 — R Farrant 80
12 100-3S Kinsford Rose (27) (BF) M Pipe 5-10-12 — C Maude 87
13 6 Sparkling Annie (33) R Frost 5-10-12 — T O'Connor (7) 76

Betting: 3-1 Kinsford Rose, 7-2 Mite Equal, 5-1 Sawaab, 6-1 Zorba, 8-1 Schnozzle, Indian Nectar.

2.55 FLUKEYS OF BARNSTAPLE NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 6f £2,670 (7 declared)

1 3033-P Oliver's Secret (22) M Pipe 8-11-10 — C Maude ★ 83
2 663F-3 Gumair (54) A Dunn 5-11-9 — C Llewellyn 85
3 L0536- Brush With Fame (113) P Hobbs 6-10-8 — G Tormey ●90
4 P01-4P Powder Monkey (22) T Needham 8-10-7 — Mrs C Ford 90
5 PP/P-5 Dante's Rubicon (40) N Ayliffe 7-10-0 — R Greene 77
6 066F-0 Pablo's Jet (18) P Farrell 5-10-0 — T Murphy ★ 76
7 500/PP Rocky Romance (6) R Curtis 11-10-0 — J Leech ★ 72

Betting: 2-1 Brush With Fame, 5-2 Oliver's Secret, Gumair, 10-1 Powder Monkey, 12-1 Pablo's Jet, 16-1 Dante's Rubicon, 33-1 Rocky Romance.

3.30 KINGSBRIDGE CONTRACT FURNITURE NOVICE CHASE 2m 5f 110yds £2,762 (9 declared)

1 021-12 King Of Sparta (18) (D) (BF) O Sherwood 5-11-10 — J A McCarthy ●90
2 4P-315 Chief Gale (15) (C) J O'Shea 6-11-7 — M Brennan 85
3 /5-P35 Battle Air (22) G Edwards 10-11-0 — M A Fitzgerald 80
4 5056-0 Jovial Man (18) (CD) Mrs J Scrivens 9-11-0 — T Dascombe —
5 0506-P Milestone (43) N Ayliffe 6-11-0 — R Greene —
6 P2P5/P Opera Festival (24) R Foker 8-11-0 — V Slattery —
7 03P-23 Percy Braithwaite (22) Miss P Whittle 6-11-0 — S Durack (3) 87
8 50/0P- Saramacare (264) R Frost 6-11-0 — J Frost —
9 2/045- Mischief Star (126) P Nicholls 5-10-5 — J Tizzard (3) 87

Betting: 7-4 King Of Sparta, 3-1 Mischief Star, 4-1 Percy Braithwaite, 5-1 Chief Gale, 12-1 Battle Air, 20-1 Jovial Man, 25-1 Saramacare.

4.05 COPPA DOLLA INN HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 6f £2,671 (5 declared)

1 B-4311 Runaway Pete (17) (CD) M Pipe 8-12-0 — G Supple (3) 88
2 0234P- Sheriff (F19) J Hills 7-11-8 — C Llewellyn 84
3 144-F3 Canton Venture (7) S Woods 6-11-4 — P Hide 88
4 1580-0 Pride Of Kashmir (15) P Hobbs 5-10-0 — G Tormey ★ 86
5 0130-2 Palladium Boy (15) M Pipe 8-10-0 — R Johnson ●90

Betting: 2-1 Runaway Pete, 5-2 Palladium Boy, 3-1 Sheriff, 7-1 Canton Venture, Pride Of Kashmir.

4.40 HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY TED CLARVIS HANDICAP CHASE 2m 110yds £3,388 (8 declared)

1 2U6F-2 Robert's Toy (22) (CD) M Pipe 7-12-0 — C Maude ★ 85
2 21486- Jazzy Refrain (230) (D) L Wells 8-11-9 — P Hide 87
3 43-316 Caspian Beluga (26) (CD) (BF) S Knight 10-10-13 — P Holley 88
4 21423- Mrs Em (68) (D) (BF) P Nicholls 6-10-8 — T Murphy ●90
5 /5UPP- Yaakum (82) S Llewellyn 9-10-2 — B Fenton ★ —
6 4/P-06 Super Sharp (5) (CD) J Williams 10-10-0 — V Slattery 77
7 3/15-6 Bally Parson (43) R Dickin 12-10-0 — J Culloty 86
8 4/4-56 Evening Rain (33) (CD) R Hodges 12-10-0 — T Dascombe 79

Betting: 9-4 Mrs Em, 5-2 Robert's Toy, 4-1 Jazzy Refrain, Caspian Beluga, 16-1 Super Sharp, Bally Parson, 20-1 Evening Rain, 33-1 Yaakum.

5.15 KINGSBRIDGE TAVERNS HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 1f £2,545 (6 declared)

1 12-331 Supermick (5) (7lb ex) (CD) M Pipe 7-12-3 — S Durack (3) ●90
2 PFU5-5 Intermagic (18) (D) J Fox 8-11-0 — S Fox 83
3 34U6F- Almapa (87) (D) R Hodges 6-10-9 — T Dascombe 80
4 2/00-0 Casual Water (58) (D) P Nicholls 7-10-8 — J Tizzard (3) 78
5 4521-P Little Hooligan (18) (D) S Knight 7-10-0 — L Aspell ★ 80
6 PP31-4 Bright Eclipse (24) R Frost 5-10-0 — T O'Connor (7) 85

Betting: 2-1 Supermick, 7-2 Almapa, 6-1 Intermagic, Bright Eclipse, 13-2 Little Hooligan, 8-1 Casual Water.

Results

GOODWOOD

2.15 (2m 4f): 1, PUTERI WENTWORTH, J Fortune (10-1); **2, Etterby Park** (8-1); **3, Dovedon Star** (3-2 jt-fav). 9-2 Nanton Point jt-fav. 11 ran. ¾, 11. (Gay Kelleway) Tote: £10.80; £2.60, £2.30, £1.60. Dual F: £48.00 CSF: £71.90. Tricast: £342.67.
2.45 (7f): 1, AL-JAHR, L Dettori (4-5 fav); **2, Raise A Grand** (15-2); **3, Gold Academy** (16-1). 7 ran. 5, 1¼. (S bin Suroor) Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.90. Dual F: £4.80. CSF: £8.17.
3.20 (1m): 1, AMONG MEN, M J Kinane (4-1); **2, Almushtarak** (20-1); **3, Lend A Hand** (5-2 fav). 10 ran. 1, 1¼. (Sir Michael Stoute) Tote: £5.10; £2.00, £4.50, £1.40. Dual F: £75.40. CSF: £71.95. NR: Bold Fact.
3.50 (1m 4f): 1, MUHIB, R Hills (10-1); **2, Rainbow High** (15-2); **3, Murghem** (14-1). 100-30 fav Zalal. 15 ran. ¾, 1¼. (Sir Michael Stoute) Tote: £13.40; £4.50, £2.10, £6.00. Dual F: £31.50. CSF: £72.24. Tricast: £974.12.
4.25 (6f): 1, THREAT, L Dettori (7-2); **2, Belasco** (2-5 fav); **3, Learned Friend** (8-1). 5 ran. 5, 1¼. (J Gosden) Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £1.20. Dual F: £1.60. CSF: £4.98.
5.00 (5f): 1, DOUBLE OSCAR, Alex Greaves (14-1); **2, Selhurst Ridge** (16-1); **3, Ivory's Grab Hire** (20-1); **4, Eastern Prophets** (25-1). 5-1 fav Polly Golightly. 21 ran. 2, ¾. (D Nicholls) Tote: £19.20; £3.70, £3.30, £9.10, £10.20. Dual F: £89.20. CSF: £185.07. Tricast: £4,156.56.
5.35 (1m 1f): 1, BEST OF ALL, G Carter (25-1); **2, Light Step** (9-1); **3, Marie Loup** (11-2). 4-1 fav Tajawuz. 14 ran. 2, 1½. (J Berry) Tote: £35.70; £6.90, £2.80, £2.30. Dual F: £201.40. CSF: £206.83. Tricast: £1,307.83.
JACKPOT: Not won. Pool of £22,521.01 carried forward to Goodwood today.
PLACEPOT: £325.50. **QUADPOT:** £105.20

SEDGEFIELD

2.30 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, ORIEL LAD, F Leahy (6-1); **2, Stretching** (16-1); **3, Nonios** (4-1 fav). 13 ran. 10, 2. (Kate Milligan) Tote: £8.10; £2.20, £5.40, £1.80. Dual F: £57.70. CSF: £86.07. Tricast: £395.21.
3.05 (3m 3f 110yds Hdle): 1, OUR KRIS, A S Smith (12-1); **2, Stoned Imaculate** (5-1 fav); **3, Soloman Springs** (3-1). 6 ran. 1, 5. (M Sowersby) Tote: £9.00; £3.00, £1.40. Dual F: £7.70. CSF: £27.12.
3.35 (2m 4f Ch): 1, CRAIGSTOWN, N Smith (13-2); **2, The Toaster** (6-1); **3, Mischievous Girl** (20-1). 9-4 fav Appearance Money. 8 ran. ¾, 4. (Mrs J Barr) Tote: £6.60; £1.70, £2.20, £3.70. Dual F: £21.70. CSF: £36.16. Tricast: £577.61.
4.10 (2m 110yds Ch): 1, OVAHANDY MAN, P Henley (14-1); **2, Madge McSplash** (2-1 fav); **3, Highland View** (9-1). 11 ran. 5, 7. (J Gledson) Tote: £17.40; £3.20, £1.30, £1.50. Dual F: £23.50. CSF: £39.86.
4.45 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, DAIRA, R Johnson (7-4 fav); **2, Petit Flora** (33-1); **3, By Jay** (12-1). 10 ran. 9, 10. (B Ellison) Tote: £2.80; £1.20, £3.90, £2.20. Dual F: £26.60. CSF: £58.18. NR: Fullopep.
5.15 (2m 5f 110yds Hdle): 1, MR CAVALLO, R Johnson (7-2); **2, Thomas Crown** (11-4 fav); **3, Sun Of Spring** (7-2). 8 ran. 4, 5. (Lucinda Russell) Tote: £3.10; £2.60, £1.60. Dual F: £4.50. CSF: £11.87. NR: Mountain Dream.
PLACEPOT: £217.90.
QUADPOT: £27.90.

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online
Every Thursday in the The Guardian International

Football

Big three toe the line on new Euro league

Russell Thomas and John Hooper in Rome

THE PROSPECT of the English football authorities going to war with Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool over the rising threat of a European Super League receded last night, quashing fears of turmoil less than a fortnight before the Premiership season kicks off.

A reported deadline of 5pm, backed by the threat of a court injunction, for this trio to give the Premier League written undertakings that they would not join an elite European group passed without alarums. It is understood all three provided assurances that they would not pursue any breakaway.

The three clubs have not made any official comment but are understood to have spelled out their positions in discussions with the Premier League in the past few days.

Nevertheless, growing speculation in Britain, Italy and Spain of a lucrative new competition, coupled with a recent Uefa statement of concern about "the intended creation of a European Super League", prompted the Premier League to investigate, culminating in its chief executive Peter Leaver speaking at length with the three clubs yesterday and on Tuesday.

The Premier League sounded out all 20 top-flight clubs over the past week while putting all on alert for an emergency meeting in London today. But it was then decided no such immediate summit was required.

Yesterday the Premier League said: "Our clubs have read a lot about a Super League, much of which is speculation. While we believe that the present structure is working well, it is only sensible that we, as other leagues and Uefa are doing, clarify what — if any — proposals exist concerning a Super League."

A consortium of marketing, legal and financial figures from outside football is reported to be offering such powers as Juventus, Real Madrid, Barcelona and Ajax as well as top English clubs £3 million to sign up for a place in a Super League, with the prospect of a further £20 million a year for taking part in a 16-team competition, split into two divisions. The eventual European champions could earn £40 million.

According to Italian press reports, the consortium is being organised by the American bank J P Morgan.

Italian and Spanish clubs, notably Silvio Berlusconi's Milan, are believed to be at the centre of the breakaway talks but none has confirmed involvement in discussions.

Yesterday a Milan director, Umberto Gandini, said: "Neither Mr Berlusconi nor his companies are behind this project." But he added: "Milan as a football team is interested in anything that would improve Europe's football system and in this capacity, Milan has been aware of the project."

Gandini was reported earlier this month to have represented Milan at a secret three-day meeting in London to hear details of the plan.

Berlusconi, as a businessman with vast television interests and as president of such a big club as Milan, thus could have a double stake in the project's success.

All the comings and goings well be primarily aimed at wringing more concessions from Uefa over the Champions League, with the European superpowers playing more guaranteed games and earning more money.

Nevertheless, Uefa last week expressed surprise that a European Super League, which it had learned about from "informal sources", had "remained unnoticed by the national associations and leagues concerned". As a result Uefa "has approached the national member associations and their respective leagues asking them to take an official stance on this matter."



Running scared . . . After fleeing the media in London, Sol Campbell arrives at Milan's Linate airport yesterday fuelling heated transfer speculation PHOTOGRAPH: ANTONIO CALANNI

Campbell caught sneaking off for secret Italian trip

THE England World Cup defender Sol Campbell flew to Milan yesterday and his startled reaction when he spotted the media at Heathrow airport prompted speculation that he was due to transfer to a big Italian club.

"Go away, just go away," said Campbell when approached by reporters.

"I'm not doing anything so just go. I want you to leave me alone and just go away. Now."

After collecting his ticket for the flight to Milan, Campbell asked a BA member of staff to help him get on to the plane ahead of the other passengers and she opened a security door leading to the aircraft jetty.

Holding up a suit carrier to hide his face, Campbell hurried to the plane.

Meanwhile, neither Internazionale nor Milan could explain Campbell's mystery flight to northern Italy. Spokesmen for both Italian clubs denied any knowledge of negotiations for the Spurs and England defender.

Moriero rejects a £7m move to Boro

Jon Brodkin and Mark Ryan

THE Italy winger Francesco Moriero last night turned down a £7 million move from Internazionale to Middlesbrough which would have doubled his wages to £1 million a year.

His decision seems to have been influenced by the unhappy experiences of his compatriot Fabrizio Ravanelli at the Riverside. The striker lasted little over a season before moving to Marseille.

Inter's spokesman Sandro Sabatini said: "Although Francesco has every respect for Middlesbrough and admires their set-up he has made the decision to stay with us. He informed us today and we have accepted his explanation."

Chelsea have rejected reports that they are considering selling their France centre-back Frank Leboeuf for £5 million.

The club's managing director Colin Hutchison said Liverpool had contacted the player's agent in the hope of buying him but added: "We have never considered selling him. I put it straight between the eyes to his agent yesterday and I asked, 'Straight choice between Liverpool and Chelsea, which does Frank want?' He came back and said Frank wants to stay at Chelsea."

Blackburn's defender Colin Hendry said yesterday he was determined to move to Rangers, who have been told to double their £2.5 million offer for the 32-year-old.

"I've made it clear to Blackburn that I want to spend the rest of my career in Scotland for the sake of my family," he said. "I still love Blackburn and Blackburn Rovers but I love my family more."

Sheffield Wednesday's manager Danny Wilson hopes to make the Holland midfielder Wim Jonk his first signing. Wednesday are talking to PSV Eindhoven player, who would cost around £2 million.

Dwight Yorke hinted yesterday that his possible move to Manchester United could be settled before the weekend. Saturday is the Champions League deadline and the striker admitted "the next 48 hours could be interesting".

John Collins's £2.5 million move from Monaco to Everton was one of several transfers completed yesterday. Newcastle signed Dietmar Hamann and Nolberto Solano for a combined £8 million and Kevin Campbell moved from Nottingham Forest to Trabzonspor of Turkey for £3 million.

Forest will sign the Wolves striker Dougie Freedman as a replacement if they agree personal terms for a £900,000 transfer. Forest's manager Dave Bassett is also interested in Norway's midfielder Roar Strand.

Birmingham have appointed the former England international Chris Woods as their goalkeeping coach, and Hans Segers will fill a similar position at Tottenham. Another new arrival at Spurs is the Marseille striker Aboubacar Camara, who will train there with a view to a transfer. Ipswich's manager George Burley has signed a new three-year contract.

New disciplinary rules should mean fewer suspensions next season. Players will be suspended for one match if they accumulate five bookings by April 12, whereas five bookings could have earned a three-match ban last season. However, players will no longer have a booking erased if they go five matches without a caution.



Collins . . . Everton's man

Uefa Cup qualifying round, second leg

Rangers 2 Shelbourne 0 (agg: 7–3)

Johansson at the double

Patrick Glenn

EXPECTATIONS at Ibrox were only half met. Rangers did progress to the second preliminary round on half-throttle, but not by the anticipated landslide. It was *not until the 90th minute that* Jonaton Johansson completed a double with a close-range shot which gave the scoreline a more convincing look.

Shelbourne may have attracted the smallest visiting support ever seen at Ibrox — the old Iron Curtain teams excepted — with about 30 fans in a tiny corner of a stand that can accommodate 7,500.

But even a following 100 times larger could not have given the team sufficient wind to achieve a mission that looked impossible after only five minutes, when Rangers scored and took their aggregate lead to 6–3.

The Ibrox side's superiority thereafter bordered on the tedious but it gave the home fans an opportunity to scrutinise the debutants, Andrei Kanchelskis and Arthur Numan.

Nobody expected miracles from players who lack fitness but Kanchelskis made a quick contribution by setting up that early goal. Taking possession on the right, he delivered the ideal cut-back to Johansson and the Finn drilled his shot from 12 yards low to the right of Alan Gough. Kanchelskis then put a cross over for Jorg Albertz, whose header skimmed the bar.

Numan, who arrived only on Tuesday from his post-World Cup break, may need practice but he still managed *to look a quality act.*

In the second half the match had all the atmosphere of a closed-doors trial, the general boredom relieved only by the occasional thundering drive from Albertz and, on one occasion, a low drive from Sergio Porrini that whistled wide.

Dick Advocaat, Rangers' coach, had warned that many of his players were still markedly short of the required fitness levels and his assessment looked spot-on.

There seemed to be a difference in ambition between the teams, though, as Shelbourne, with Tony McCarthy and Pat Scully stout in defence and Pat Fenlon, Mark Rutherford, Pat Morley and Liam Kelly busy up forward, battled spiritedly to preserve a single-goal scoreline that they could consider a moral triumph.

Rangers (4–4–2): Niemi, Moore, Porrini, Amoruso, Numan, Kanchelskis (Amato, h–t), B Ferguson, Van Bronckhurst (Ferguson, 74min), Albertz, Durie (Gattuso, 62), Johansson.

Shelbourne (4–4–2): Gough, Smith, McCarthy, Scully, Geoghegan, Kelly, Fitzgerald, Fenlon, Morley (Sheridan, 67), Rutherford, D Baker.

Referee: M Milewski (Poland).

Brave Newtown are Pole-axed

REALITY dawned for Newtown last night as the League of Wales part-timers were crushed 7-0 by Wisla Krakow in the second leg of their Uefa Cup preliminary round tie, having achieved a minor miracle at Latham Park last week by holding the Poles to a goalless draw.

Two up at half-time with goals from their captain Tomasz Kulawik and the Nigerian Ibrahim Sunday, Krakow scored three times in 10 minutes after the break to put the issue beyond doubt. Kulawik heading his second followed by strikes from Grzegorz Kaliciak and Grzegorz Nicinski. Grzegorz Pater and Cazimierz Wegrzwin had completed the rout by the 67th minute.

The Slovakians of Kosice were even more merciless on their part-time Celtic opponents in the Champions Cup, thrashing Cliftonville 8–0 to complete an aggregate 13–1 victory.

Golf

Volvo Masters

News and Reports

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Results

Football

EUROPEAN CUP

First qualifying round

second leg

Barry Ta (1) 1 — Dynamo Kiev (1) 2
Williams 30 — Mikhailenko 11, Vorgilnski 50
1,500
(aggs. 1–10)

Kosice (3) 8 — Cliftonville (0) 0
J Kozak 3, Jancka 14, 55, Nemeth 31, Prohaszka 57, 72, Lubarski 66, Kozlej 83
1,998
(agg: 13–1)

St Patricks Ath (0) 0 — Celtic (1) 2
Brattbakk 12, Larsson 72
(agg. 0–2)

Kepez Ganja (Aze) 1 LKS Lodz (Pol) 3
(agg. 2–7); Vilazmia Shkoder (Alb) 3 Dinamo Thilisi (Geo) 1 (3–4); Flora (Estonia) 3 Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 1 (4–5); Maribor Teatanc (Slovan) 1 Karoda (Lith) 0 (4–0); SK Tirana Tirana (Alba) 0 Inter Bratislava (Slovak) 2 (0–4); Halmstad (Swe) 2 Liteks (Bul) 1 (2–3), Ujpest (Hun) 3 Zimbru (Mol) 1 (3–2); Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) 6 Valletta (Malta) 0 (6–0); Vestmannaeyja (Ice) 1 Obilic Belgrade (Yug) 2 (1–4).

UEFA CUP

First qualifying round, second leg

Kilmarnock (1) 1 — Zeljeznicar (0) 0
Mahood 31 — 14,512
(agg: 2–1)

Krakow (2) 7 — Newtown (0) 0
Kulawik 28, 46, Sunday 35, Kaliciak 49, Nicinski 54, Pater 62, Wegrzyn 66
10,000
(agg: 7–0)

Lindfield (3) 5 — Omonia Nicosia (3) 3
Feeney 19, Gorman 35, 48, McDonald 45, Ferguson 72
Marantos 2, Klassov 15, Ioakim 23
2,000
(agg: 6–6)

Rangers (1) 2 — Shelbourne (0) 0
Johansson 4, 89
45,805
(agg: 7–3)

Dynamo Baku (Aze) 0 Argos Pitesti (Rom) 2 (agg: 1–7); Polonia Warsaw (Pol) 3 Tallinna Sadam (Est) 1 (5–1); CSKA Sofia (Bul) 3 Belshina Bobruisk (Bela) 1 (3–1); Dinzgarva Riga (Lat) 1 Mura Muraka Sobota (Slovan) 2 (3–6); FimPa Helsinki (Fin) 1 Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 3 (2–6); Zhalgiris (Lith) 1 Akranes (Ice) 0 (3–3, Zhalgiris win on away goals); VPS Vaasa (Fin) 4 Torshavn HB (Faroe Islands) 0 (4–2); Malmo (Swe) 5 Shirak Gyumri (Arm) 0 (7–0); Crvena Zvezda (Red Star) Belgrade (Yug) 7 Kalkeis 1913 (Geo) 0 (11–0); Sloga Jugomagnat Skopje (Mac) 1 Otelul Galati (Rom) 1 (1–4).

FRIENDLIES: Boston Utd 1 Peterborough 1; Chorley 1 Bolton 1; Gainsborough 0 Man Utd XI 10; Gillingham 1 Crystal Palace 2; Goole 2 Blackpool 4; Halifax 1 Huddersfield 0; Hednesford 1 Shell Utd 1; Hendon 3 Fulham 4; Hucknall Tn 2 Mansfield 0; Hyde Utd 2 Stockport 4; Leek Tn 2 Port Vale 1; Leigh RMI 0 Southport 2; Lincoln C 0 Sheff Wed 3, Notts Co 2 West Brom 3; Northampton 2 Wolverhampton 1; Rotherham 1 Bradford C 1; Whitby Tn 3 Middlesbrough XI 0; Winsford Utd 1 Oldham 2; Worksop 2 Doncaster 2.

Golf

ENGLISH AMATEUR C'SHIP (Woodhall Spa): **Third round:** J Doherty (Worthing) bt J Dickinson (Saffron Walden) 7up; J Illsley (Kenilworth) bt A White (Piessington) 2&1; D Errington (Arcot Hall) bt M Prue (Hillside) 1up; S Robinson (Seaton Carew) bt D Griffiths (West Herts) at 19th; M Hide (Shirley Pk) bt M King (Toft Hoad) 1up; C Rodgers (Royal Mid Surrey) bt A Bibby (Wilmslow) 4&2; N Rideswood (Orsett) bt D Hastings (Old Fold Manor) 6&5; T Whitehouse (Maxstone Pk) bt M Hilton (East Sussex National) 4&2; N Soto (Northants Co) bt A Carey (Walmley) 5&4; C Banks (Stanton on the Wolds) bt R Fenwick (Bognor Regis) 4&3; B Taylor (Thorpe Hall) bt K Freeman (Stoke Poges) 4&3; C Hudson (The Army) bt G Legg (Dudsbury) 2up; R Tibbey (Romford) bt M Booker (Royal Mid Surrey) 4&2; G Storm (Wynard) bt D Marsh (Wrangaton) 2up; D West (Bedford and County) bt M Keeling (Alsager) 5&3; Gorry bt Allen 1up; Preste bt Dyson 3&2; Needham bt Barnes 7&6; Walker bt Godfrey 5&3; Smithson bt Wellbank 3&2; Beck bt McEvoy 1up; Meynen bt Murphy 1up; Mesbitt bt Harrison 4&3; Mason bt Sandeman 3&2; Sanders bt Phelps 4&3; Caldwell bt Barnard 2&1; Harris bt Ward 3&1; Bateman bt Amos 4&3, Finch bt Orchard 5&3; Walsh bt Maly 2&1; Barrows bt Sullivan 5&4; Roake bt Sampshire 1up.

Tennis

ATP LOS ANGELES TOURNAMENT: First round: T Henman (GB) bt G Stafford (SA) 6–3, 6–0; G Raoux (Fr) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 6–4, 7–6; S Bergstan (Arm) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6–1, 6–2; V Spadea (US) bt M Ondruska (SA) 2–6, 6–3, 6–3; J Tarango (US) bt A Hernandez (Mex) 6–2, 6–2; M Joyce (US) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 7–5, 2–6, 7–5.

ATP CROATIA OPEN (Umag): First rounds: P Haarhuis (Neth) bt C Moya (Sp) 5–7, 6–4, 6–1; J Burillo (Sp) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 6–3, 6–1; D Sanguinetti (It) bt O Stanoytchev (Bul) 6–4, 3–6, 6–4; K Kucera (Slovak) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6–4, 6–0; B Ulm (Slovak) bt L Nanscut (Cz) 6–3, 6–1; S Cebulli (It) bt T Carbir (Slovak) 6–7, 6–4, 6–3; J Sanchez (Sp) bt M Martelli (It) 6–4, 6–4; G Kuerten (Br) bt M–K Goellner (Ger) 6–0, 7–6; B Ullmann (Cz) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 7–6, 6–4; J Diaz (Sp) bt E Rasberger (Cro) 6–3, 6–3; A Velasco (Rom) bt M Carlsson (Br) 1–6, 7–6, 6–3; F Mantilla (Sp) bt L Burgsmuller (Ger) 6–3, 6–3. **Second round:** Kucera bt Urh 7–5, 6–2; M Puerta (Arg) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6–4, 4–6, 6–4.

ATP GENERALI OPEN (Kitzbuhel): **Second round:** A Gaudenzi (It) bt L Rehmann (Ger) 7–6, 6–2; R Fromberg (Aus) bt T Schlessing (Aut) 5–7, 6–3, 6–3; B Karbacher (Ger) bt A Berasategui (Sp) 4–6, 6–4, 7–6; L Arnold (Arg) bt B Dosedel (Cz) 6–2, 6–2; F Dewulf (Bel) bt S Grosjean (Fr) 6–7, 6–3, 6–3; F Squillari (Arg) bt W Schranz (Aut) 6–4, 7–5; F Squillari (Arg) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6–4, 6–3; T Muster (Aut) bt J Krosiak (Slovak) 6–2, 4–6, 6–2; W Arthurs (Aus) bt M Safin (Rus) 7–6, 6–4; S Huet (Fr) bt C Costa (Sp) 4–6, 6–0 ret; A Costa (Sp) bt R Schuettler (Ger) 6–1, 6–3.

Athletics

IAAF GRAND PRIX (Paris): **Mens 800ms** 1, D Kiptoo (Ken) 1min 44.20sec; 2, M Hakla (Mor) 1.44.79; 3, J Kimutai (Ken) 1.44.86. **Miles** 1, H El Guerrouj (Mor) 3.48.01; 2, J Kibowen (Ken) 3.51.96; 3, W Tanui (Ken) 3.52.31; 7, J Mayock (GB) 3.53.72.

Womens 100ms: 1, M Jones (US) 10.88sec; 2, C Arron (Fr) 10.98; 3, C Gaines (US) 11.04. **800ms:** 1, M Mutola (Moz) 1.58.12; 2, J Mtez (US) 1.59.60; 3, V Szekely (Rom) 1.59.57. **3,000ms** 1, G Szabo (Rom) 8.24.31; 2, Z Ouazir (Mar) 8.27.26; 3, G Wami (Eth) 8.29.24.

Basketball

MEN'S WORLD C'SHIP (Athens): **First round: Group A:** Italy 76 Senegal 66. **Group B:** Russia 83 Japan 58; Yugoslavia 80 Porto Rico 68. **Group C:** Lithuania 97 South Korea 56; United States 93 Brazil 59. **Group D:** Spain 80 Nigeria 68.

Chess

SMITH AND WILLIAMSON BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP (Torquay): **Round Three:** K Arkell 0 N Short 1; M Sadler 1 P Thipsay 0; A Ledger ½ A Miles ½; P Wells 1 A Martin 0; J Rowson 1 T Hicks–Edwards 0; M Hebden v K Seshkiran unfinished; B Kelly 0 J Speelman 1; D Gormally 1 S Conquest 0; C Beaumont 0 G Buckley 1. **Leaders:** Short, Sadler, Wells, Rowson 3; Ledger, Miles, Speelman, Gormally, Buckley 2½.

Cricket

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Bournemouth: Surrey 93 (Francis 5–26), Hampshire 135–0 (L Sawden 80no), **Chandles:** Lancashire 255–7 (P R Sleep 89no) v Derbyshire. **Clevedon:** Yorkshire 412 (G D Clough 138, L C Weekes 85, G M Fellows 72; Pierson 4–142) v Somerset. **Northampton:** Northamptonshire 368–5 dec (T M B Bailey 101no, R J Logan 67, D J Roberts 64, J N Snape 50). Glamorgan 46–1 **Oakham School:** Essex 228–4 (J C Powell 115) v Leicestershire. **Stockton:** Durham 89 (Catterall 5–31). Worcestershire 14–0. **Uxbridge:** Nottinghamshire 247–5 (PR Pollard 118, N A Gie 79) v Middlesex.

Crown Green Bowls

WATERLOO: Second round: J Spence (Bispham) bt G Moore (Wigan) 21–15; I Welton (Stafford) bt A Wide (Walkden) 21–19; J Ball (Tarleton) bt W Munro (Audenshaw) 21–17; S Hargreaves (Hyde) bt P Sykes (Huddersfield) 21–20; J Lumpkin (Wirral) bt E Cartwright (Hyde) 21–17. J Urmston (Blackpool) bt B Lane (Fibbers) 21–10; R Everitt (Walsall) bt K Whyatt (Macclesfield) 21–17; P Hawker (Offerton) bt D Teeby (Ambleside) 21–16; J McDonnell (Audenshaw) bt S Kirby (Chorlton) 21–15; R Mellid (Sale) bt G Bailey (Hyde) 21–14; A Keeney (Fazakerley) bt M Hall (Doncaster) 21–16; C Slater (Keighley) bt W Harrison (Fazakerley) 21–19; K Nixon (Doncaster) bt R Wilson (Ambleside) 21–11; R Seston (Longridge) bt F Waterman (Sale) 21–13; K Whalley (Macclesfield) bt H Dean (Fazakerley) 21–5; D Yeasell (Macclesfield) bt M Dixon (Ambleside) 21–9; L Foster (Keighley) bt D Beckett (Bolton) 21–19; C Hayes (Hyde) bt J Harrison (Ambleside) 21–7.

Cycling

NATIONAL TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS (Manchester): **4,000m pursuit** (quarter-finals): C Sturgess (Team Brite) 4min 35.561sec bt B Steel (Team Brite) 4.42.173; M Illingworth (Team Brite) 4.26.073 bt J Notley (Team Ambrosia) 4.38.150; R Hayles (Team Brite) 4.25.214 bt C Allcock (Mansfield RC) 4.41.725; J Clay (Team Brite) 4.28.008 bt S Whitcombe (City of Edinburgh RC) 4.43.848.

Open 4,000ms pursuit (semi-finals). M Illingworth (Team Brite) 4min 27.745sec bt J Clay (Brite) 4.28.781; R Hayles (Brite) 4.33.719 bt C Sturgess (Brite) 4.34.961.

Olympic sprint (semi-finals): City of Edinburgh RC 49.247 bt Woolwich CC (did not finish); Team Brite 48.268 bt CC Lancashire 49.584.

Women's 3,000ms pursuit (qualifying time-trial): 1, Y McGregor (Adidas–SciCon) 3min 39.671sec; 2, M Ward (Condor Cycles) 3.48.709; 3, E Davies (Mary Hall Cycles) 3.53.809.

Junior 500ms points race (final). 1, B Wiggins (Team Brite) 36pts; 2, M Kelly (Manx RC) 31; 3, B Hallam (Brite) 18.

Sailing

470 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Cesme, Turkey): **Mens** (after 9 races): 1, Copil/Margon (Slo) 30pts; 2, Rocha/Barreau (Por) 31; 3, Philippe/Cariou (Fr) 50pts. GBs 16, Rogers/Glanfield 99; 30, Draper/Newman 169.

Women (after 10 races): 1, Tarsn/Pokhokhik (Ukr) 19pts; 2, Truebel/Grosser (Ger) 38; 3, Ward/Ward (Den) 40. GBs 13, Nurton/Watson 87; 16, Raggatt/Webb 99.

EUROPE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Warnemunde, Ger): **After five races:** 1, K Rong (Den) 8pts; 2, M Mamajcze (Neth) 8; 3, A Mason (NC) 9p, GBs 5, S Robertson 14; 27, D Winstanley 58.

Evening Racing

Doncaster

6.25 (1m 4f): 1, **MARIENNA**, Kim Tinkler (7–4 Fav); 2, **One Night Stand** (5–2); 3, **Mascot** (16–1). 5 ran. 1, ¼ (Don Enrico Incisa) Tote: £2.80; £1.40. £1.50. Dual F: £3.40 CSF: £5.41. NR: Bosom Pal.

6.55 (7f): 1, **AUCTION HOUSE**, M Hills (4–5 Fav); 2, **Best All** (9–4); 3, **Initiative** (6–1). 14 ran. 4, nk. (B Hills) Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £1.80, £1.80. Dual F: £2.80. CSF: £2.69.

7.25 (6f): 1, **VENTURE CAPITALIST**, F Norton (2–1); 2, **Iceland** (4–1); 3, **Hello Mister** (8–1). Evens Fav Jimmy Too. 4 ran. 1¾, nk. (D Nicholls) Tote: £2.80. Dual F: £3.10. CSF: £3.30.

7.55 (1m): 1, **LONDON BE' GOOD**, J Carroll (7–4 Fav); 2, **Mimetta** (2–1); 3, **Simply Super** (16–1). 7 ran. 2, nk. (J Fanshawe) Tote: £3.10; £1.80, £1.50. Dual F: £3.10. CSF: £5.71.

8.25 (1m 2f 60yds): 1, **RICCARTON**, J Fortune (9–4 Fav); 2, **Tankersley** (8–1); 3, **St Lawrence** (14–1). 7 ran. Nk, hd. (P Calver) Tote: £3.10; £1.80, £3.90. Dual F: £16.40. CSF: £21.13.

8.55 (5f): 1, **JUST TESTING**, R Lappin (6–1); 2, **Wishbone Alley** (10–1); 3, **Long Island** (16–1); 4, **Atlanta** (20–1). 11–2 Fav Sky Red. 17 ran. 2, 1. (J Eyre) Tote: £6.20; £1.80, £3.10, £4.80. Dual F: £36.70. CSF: £55.68. Tricast: £862.38. NR: Euro Venture, Miss Hill.

QUADPOT: £37.00 **PLACEPOT:** £68.90.

Epsom

6.10 (1m 2f 18yds): 1, **CHIEF CASHIER**, A Daly (7–1); 2, **San Giacomo Melody** (9–2); 3, **Comic Hill** (14–1). 4–1 Jt Fav Grand Mufa. 11 ran. 1¾, ¾. (G Balding) Tote: £5.80; £2.20, £1.60, £4.60. Dual F: £17.60. CSF: £36.47. Tricast: £402.69.

6.40 (7f): 1, **LADY BUCK**, S Whitworth (7–1); 2, **Pleralist** (11–4); 3, **Billy McCaw** (6–1 Fav). 11 ran. Nk, 1. (D French Davis) Tote: £5.30; £1.20, £1.60, £1.30. Dual F: £7.60. CSF: £26.71.

7.10 (1m 4f 10yds): 1, **FLYING EAGLE**, M Gallagher (11–2); 2, **Random Kindness** (7–2 R Fav); 3, **Monasterioso** (9–2). 7–2 Fav Mids–Aus–Mon. 8 ran. ¾, 4. (R Simpson) Tote: £7.40; £2.10, £1.30, £2.10. Dual F: £11.90. CSF: £25.86. Tricast: £91.09.

7.40 (7f): 1, **SALTY JACK**, R Cochrane (9–2); 2, **The Fugative** (14–1); 3, **Suite Pleasure** (11–4 Fav); 4, **Shifting Time** (10–1). 16 ran. 1¾, hd. (V Soane) Tote: £4.70; £1.30, £3.70, £1.80. Dual F: £47.30. CSF: £72.69. Tricast: £209.59.

8.10 (6f): 1, **SALTY BEHAVIOUR**, R Hughes (5–2 Jt Fav); 2, **Shamble** (5–2 Jt Fav); 3, **Nabamoor** (8–1). 7 ran. Nk, 4. (R Hanson) Tote: £3.10; £1.90, £1.90. Dual F: £3.60. CSF: £8.64. NR: Lady Charlotte.

8.40 (1m 114yds): 1, **WATER FORCE**, S Drowne (16–1); 2, **Magical Dancer** (11–2); 3, **Prodigal Son** (4–1). 7–2 Fav Sprite. 12 ran. 1¾, hd. (G Balding) Tote: £34.30; £5.50, £2.00, £1.50. Dual F: £89.60. CSF: £89.78. Tricast: £863.28.

QUADPOT: £10.90 **PLACEPOT:** £21.60.

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

Football

FRIENDLIES: Accrington Stanley v Rochdale (7.30); Aylesbury v Watford (7.30); Bradford Pk Ave v Bradford C (7.30); Bromsgrove v Kidderminster; Chesham v Bournemouth (7.30); Congleton Tn v Macclesfield (7.30); Enfield v Peterborough (7.30); Grantham v Birmingham (7.30); Hendon v Luton (7.30); Hinckley Utd v Leicester XI (7.30); Lincoln Utd v Huddersfield (7 0); Mos C v Cardiff; Runcorn v Chester (7.30); Scarborough v Bury (7.30); Stevenage v Fulham. **Postponed:** Boreham Wood v Leyton Orient (7.30).

Cricket

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (11.0; four days): **Derby:** Derbyshire v Kent. **Southampton:** Hampshire v Durham. **Old Trafford:** Lancashire v Leicestershire. **Trent Bridge:** Nottinghamshire v Northamptonshire. **Worcester:** Worcestershire v Yorkshire. **The Oval:** Surrey v Sussex. **Edgbaston:** Warwickshire v Glamorgan.

MCC TROPHY (11.0): **Semi-finals: Chelmsford and Childrey:** Oxon v Shrops. **Bovey Tracey:** Devon v Surrey Board XI.

ONE-DAY U–19 INTERNATIONAL (11.0): Worcester: England v Pakistan.

–Sunday play.

Rugby League

Bulls complete two signings

BRADFORD BULLS yesterday completed the signing of two Great Britain internationals in a dual attempt to safeguard their place in the top five play-offs, and try to maintain the loyalty of their supporters.

The Bulls, who apologised to their fans after around 4,000 of them travelled to Edinburgh to watch their team lose badly to London in the Super League Roadshow, have paid Salford £140,000 for Nathan McAvoy, a 21-year old three-quarter, and an undisclosed fee believed to be £20,000, to Huddersfield for the experienced prop Neil Harmon. Both will be in the 17 to face Sheffield Eagles at Odsal on Sunday evening.

The 29-year-old Harmon would have become a free agent at the end of the season when his Huddersfield contract expired under the game's new, post-Bosman regulations, so the fact that Bradford were prepared to shell out for him now is an indication of their desperation for front-row strength.

McAvoy, a product of the Eccles amateur club, is a former Under-19 international captain, but his recent form with Salford has been patchy. Matt Calland, a centre who Salford wanted to take in part exchange, has decided to stay at Bradford.

Castleford received a boost ahead of Sunday's home derby with Leeds when Adrian Vowles, their inspirational Australian captain, and John Wells both signed new two-year contracts yesterday.

Eric Hughes, Shaun McRae's predecessor as the St Helens coach, who last month returned to the club as football operations manager, yesterday ruled himself out of the running to succeed McRae.

Athletics

Double delight for Malcolm

Duncan Mackay

CARDIFF's Christian Malcolm claimed Britain's first gold medal of the World Junior Championships in Annecy, France, last night when he won the 100 metres in 10.12sec, missing the world junior record by only 0.06sec

"I am so happy and proud," said the 19-year-old Malcolm, who earlier was named in the Wales team for the Commonwealth Games. "So many good British sprinters have come here and not won. But I have."

Dwain Chambers of Britain holds the world junior record, with a time of 10.06sec.

The 110m hurdles world-record holder Colin Jackson and the AAA 400m champion Iwan Thomas were also named in Wales's 24-strong team for the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Roger Black pulled out of last night's 400m at the Gaz de France meeting in Paris, fuelling speculation that he is about to retire.

The British team captain, who was due to race against Michael Johnson — who also scratched — is considering his future after the selectors denied *him* the chance to win a third European Championship gold in the individual 400m in Budapest next month.

هكذا من الاصل

Tour de France

Big guns quit after police raid

William Fotheringham sees Once and Banesto dismount as riders stage go-slow

NO ONE knows now whether this Tour will reach Paris. The organisers feel the riders "deserve the final apotheosis on the Champs-Elysées" but yesterday Once and Banesto, two of the biggest teams in the race, quit as the entire *peloton* staged its second strike in six days and police raided more team hotels in search of drugs. The character of the day was rounded off when a third British team, Vitalicio, also threw in the towel.

The riders' fragile morale cracked after police questioned six members of the Dutch TVM team on Tuesday night as part of the inquiry into a discovery of the banned drug erythropoietin in a team vehicle in early March.

The TVM six were detained from 6 pm until midnight after one of this year's toughest stages; they were driven to hospital for blood, hair and urine samples to be taken.

"They took one guy out of the shower and went through all our letters," said the team's top sprinter Jeroen Blijlevens. "We had to sign an agreement to appear before the judge at a later date or we faced prison for 48 hours immediately. We could only eat when we got back at midnight, and we got to bed at 2.30 in the morning."

Another TVM rider, the Russian Sergei Outschakov, said: "I am now a criminal".

Most of the riders gathered at the start in Albertville yesterday expected there would be a strike and the first 18 miles were covered at a dawdle. The first stoppage came soon after and when the race did resume the *maillot jaune* Marco Pantani was the first to take his number off, a gesture signifying "no racing". The stage was neutralised and no results issued.

Not all the *peloton* wanted a strike: Once felt the gesture was futile, and climbed into team cars at the first halt. They were led by the French national champion Laurent Jalabert, who was last night questioned by police.

"I do not want to ride my bike in these circumstances," said the world No. 1. He and his men were joined by Banesto and the Italian Riso Scotti team.

The *peloton* staged another stoppage a few miles later but continued to the finish where four TVM riders crossed the line first, their arms aloft. The race was saved after its director-general, Jean-Marie Leblanc, asked the police to question riders in a more dignified way. "The riders must finish this race as sportsmen, not criminals," he said.

The riders' spokesman, Bjarne Riis, said: "I went to Leblanc and said 'If things continue like this, the Tour is over.' We can accept our hotels being searched, but not what they did last night."

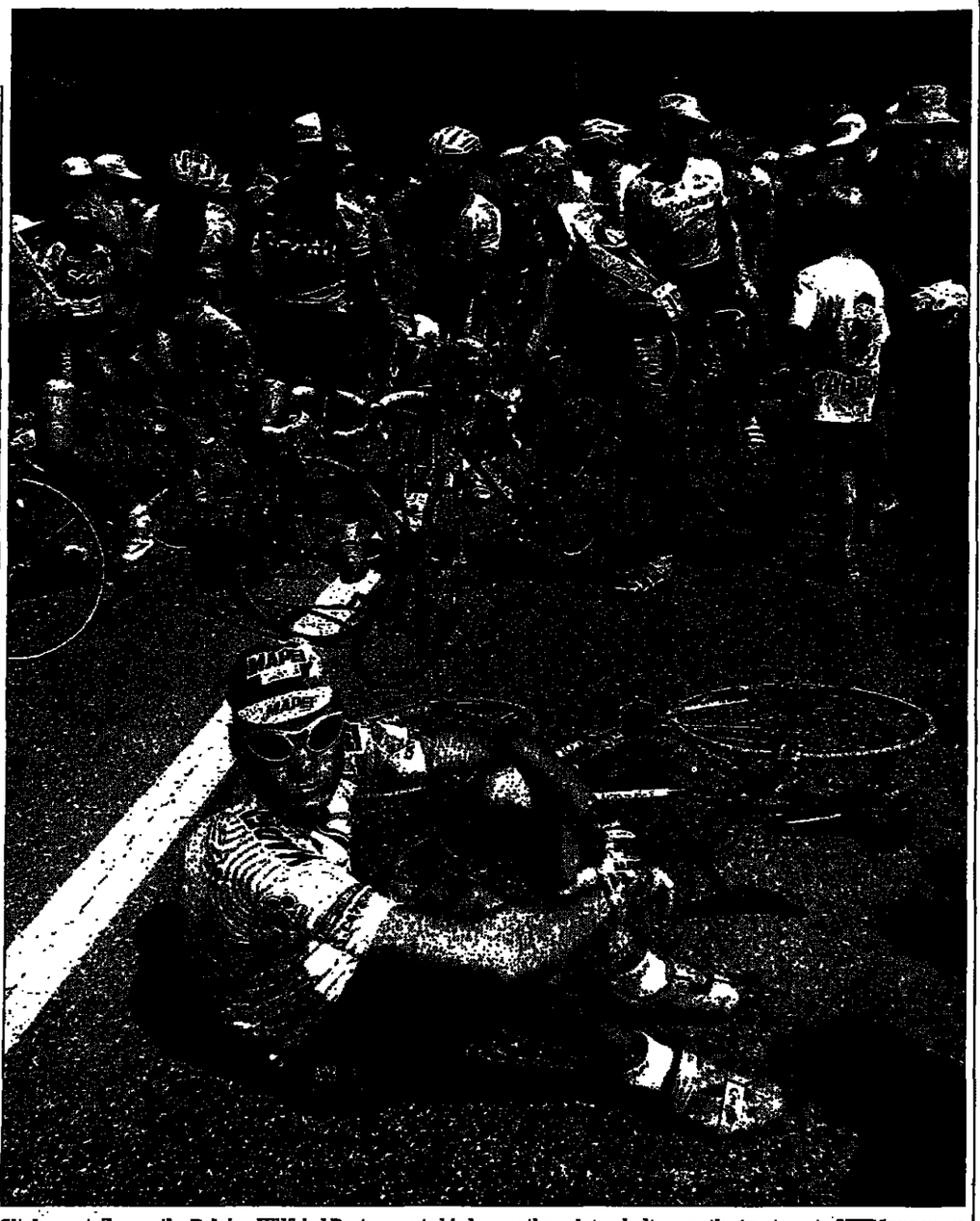
The Australian Patrick Jonker said his Rabobank team-mates were in a state of fear. "We have thrown away everything — glucose, amino acids, vitamins. We are shitting ourselves that the police will come through the door."

While the *peloton* was completing the stage, police were searching the hotels of Once, Casino, who are led by the King of the Mountains leader Rodolfo Massi, Polti, led by Luc Leblanc, and La Française des Jeux, the team of Max Sciandri, the only Briton until he abandoned yesterday morning with tendinitis.

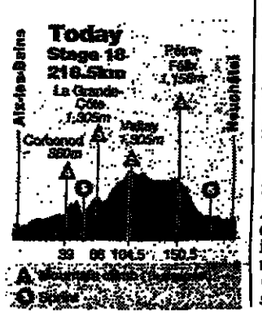
The searches were linked to the investigation into the discovery of banned drugs in a Festina team car three days before the Tour began.

Pantani, Massi and the points leader Erik Zabel took the podium simultaneously in Aix-les-Bains. This is usually done only when the Tour finishes — usually, but perhaps not this year, in Paris.

● *William Fotheringham is assistant editor of Cycling Weekly*



Sit-down strike . . . the Belgian Wilfried Peeters rests his legs as the peloton halts over the treatment of TVM PAUL HANNA



Rugby Union

Baister tells elite clubs to forget Europe

Robert Kitson

ALL official routes into Europe for England's top clubs appeared blocked last night with the new season only five weeks away. Despite the weekend withdrawal of leading French clubs from the beleaguered Heineken Cup, theoretically clearing the way for a fresh European competition, Twickenham dismissed the idea of any alternative tournament being arranged.

Reacting to claims from the former England manager Geoff Cooke, now chief executive of Bedford, that "a window of opportunity" had presented itself, Brian Baister, the Rugby Football Union's newly elected chairman, suggested that those with noses pressed against the glass were wasting their time. Given the English clubs' scathing opinions of the Dublin-based European Rugby Cup Ltd, they may now have to rely for extra income on occasional "friendlies" with their French counterparts.

"As far as the RFU are concerned we believe it is impossible to set up a European competition for the forthcoming season," insisted Baister, still prepared to offer himself as a "catalyst" for a European solution the season after next.

"We believe the clubs now recognise they must honour the Allied Dunbar fixtures. We need to stick with the Mayfair Agreement and do what we can for England ahead of the World Cup, because that's going to be the shop window for all of us."

Baister has been in the job less than fortnight but is already showing signs of impatience with certain club representatives who he feels are ignoring the financial wreckage strewn across the game.

"I don't know where these guys come from. They accuse us of not understanding the business end of the game, but they haven't cleared any new European tournament with Allied Dunbar and they haven't cleared it with Sky. They're all strapped for cash. If they land themselves with these enormous wage bills, what do they expect?"

Sky, apparently, has already decided the prospect of the Heineken Cup taking place this season is so slim that it has allocated that budget elsewhere.

Cooke's optimism had stemmed from a meeting this week involving Gloucester's owner Tom Walkinshaw and the RFU's Graham Smith, one of the chief architects of the Mayfair Agreement which specifies any cross-border competition has to be sanctioned by the unions.

"I would suspect Scotland and Ireland desperately need a European competition but, assuming the French clubs stick to what they say, I can't see there's a hope in hell of them having a meaningful one this year," Cooke said.

Bedford's backer Frank Warren again dismissed speculation about his financial position in the lead-up to a court case in January against his former partner, the American boxing promoter Don King. "Everyone's got the knives out for club rugby. It's all doom and gloom, but it shouldn't be. I'm not looking for a return in the first five years. I believe the club will wash its face this season, that's good enough for me."

● Stefan Czerpak, due to fly to Argentina as assistant coach of England Colts, died suddenly at home on Tuesday aged 47.

● Newcastle's lock Richard Metcalfe is to join Northampton for an undisclosed fee.

Wales pin hopes on £1.25m Henry

Paul Rees on the WRU's appointment of its eighth coach in the past 10 years

WALES's two-month pursuit of Graham Henry ended yesterday when the Auckland and New Zealand A coach agreed to become their eighth national coach in 10 years.

The 53-year-old Henry has signed a £1.25 million five-year contract with the Welsh Rugby Union, even though he was warned by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union that he would never coach the All Blacks if he allied himself with another union.

Henry, who a year ago turned down the opportunity to take charge of England, was the pretender to the throne of the New Zealand coach John Hart, whose position has become less secure this month with successive Tri-nations defeats by Australia and South Africa.

Wales had hoped to sign Henry two weeks ago, but they became embroiled in a contractual dispute with the New Zealand RFU. Henry only told his employers that he had accepted the Wales job before last Saturday's Test against South Africa in Wellington.

Wales have slipped alarmingly in the past decade and last month reached their nadir with a 96-13 defeat by South Africa in Pretoria, after which the Springbok coach Nick Mallett described them as probably the worst international team in the world.

Henry says he is fully aware of the task in front of him. He was unveiled to at a press conference in Cardiff yesterday when a video of a statement he had made in New Zealand earlier in the day was to be shown: unfortunately the wrong button was pressed and a picture of Paul Daniels flashed up. A magician is what the WRU undoubtedly needs.

It has appointed Henry at a time when the Welsh game is in a parlous state off the field as well as on it. "There is a big danger that Henry will not make much difference, not because of any shortcomings as a coach but because the problems facing Welsh rugby are so deep-rooted," said John Ryan, the national coach in 1988-90. "It will be a culture shock for him: he is used to having players whose fitness and skills lack nothing but in Wales he will find there is a stark difference in the attitudes of players from those in the southern hemisphere.

"The Wales national team does not come first, as Henry's predecessor Kevin Bowring found. Unless that changes, the name of the coach does not matter, nor how much he is paid. Henry needs to be in charge of Welsh rugby, not just the national side."

The union's secretary Dennis Gethin said it was "one of the most important days in the history of Welsh rugby — I hope that in years to come, people will look back on this as a watershed".

Gethin's theme was taken up by the WRU rugby director Terry Cobner, Henry's nominal superior who will be earning four times less than the New Zealander when the coach officially starts work at the end of August. "Graham Henry is a winner who does not suffer fools," said Cobner. "We are looking for a measure of respectability and then significant improvement."

Henry arrives in Wales tomorrow for a series of meetings and on Sunday will address the coaches of the eight Premier Division clubs, if they all turn up.

"It was a difficult decision," Henry said. "My heart said stay in New Zealand but my head told me not to be stupid otherwise I would end up a grumpy old man in 18 months. Wales is a country with a fantastic rugby tradition. The problem with Welsh, and British, rugby is structural. I will be looking to address that."

Sport in brief

Snooker

Kirk Stevens, the former world No. 4 whose career appeared to have been destroyed by drugs, lost in the first round of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association's summer qualifying school at Plymouth Pavilions yesterday, *writes Clive Everton*. The Canadian, competing on the circuit for the first time since his retirement four years ago, lost 5-2 to Wales's Ian Sargeant, the world No. 114, after leading 2-1.

Ice Hockey

Sheffield Steelers have re-signed the Canadian forward Ken Priestlay for a fifth season, *writes Vic Batchelder*. Priestlay, twice a Stanley Cup winner with the Pittsburgh Penguins, has scored 218 goals in 208 games for the Steelers. Nottingham Panthers have signed the Canadian forward Jarret Zukiwsky, 24, who was with the Italian club Fassa last season.

Hockey

Annie and Lauren Williams, daughters of the former Wales rugby union full-back J P R Williams, are in the Wales team for September's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, *writes Pat Rowley*.

England include three senior internationals, Denise Marston-Smith, Kerry Moore and Carol Voss, in their team for next month's European Under-21 Nations Cup finals in Belfast.

Sailing

Germany Red hold a commanding lead going into the final race of the Commodores' Cup today, *writes Bob Fisher in Cowes*. They lead by 21 points from Netherlands Red, who would have to win all three classes while the Germans finish last in each to deny them their first win in the event.

Spain had two class wins in the 130-mile offshore race which ended yesterday. They finished just behind Germany Red, for whom Sequana won its seventh race out of eight in the mid-sized class.

Basketball

Fabulous Flournoy, a 6ft 3in guard, has signed a new one-year contract with the Birmingham Bullets. Worthing have agreed terms with the 5ft 9in rookie Larry Coates, a Colombus State point guard who was selected for the NCAA Division II All-America team.

Motor Racing

Race stewards take the blame

Alan Henry

THREE international stewards relinquished their licences at an extraordinary meeting of the world motor sport council in Paris yesterday, after failing to award the British Grand Prix winner Michael Schumacher a 10-second stop-go penalty at the appropriate time in the rain-soaked race.

The FIA, Formula One's governing body, had already rejected an appeal by the McLaren team, believing the administrative omissions at Silverstone left no way of fairly readjusting the result. However, it was clear somebody would have to carry the can and the stewards Nazir Hoosein, Roger Peart and Howard Lapsley duly shouldered the blame.

The stewards were seen to have made three key errors. They failed to note the time that Schumacher's Ferrari allegedly lapped Alexander Wurz's Benetton under a yellow caution flag, and as a result applied the 10-second penalty after Schumacher would have been required to receive it in the pits.

They also failed to communicate their decision to the race director, so the information did not appear on the television monitors as required. In mitigation, the FIA noted that the extreme conditions placed race control under considerable stress, and announced a review of procedures to prevent the problem occurring again.

The FIA also clarified its position on team orders, four days after Eddie Irvine — who was yesterday confirmed to be staying with Ferrari in 1999 — apparently relinquished third place in the Austrian Grand Prix to his team-mate Schumacher to aid the German's title ambitions.

It is in fact legitimate for a team to decide that one of its drivers is the championship contender and that the other is going to support him. However, the governing body will not allow any arrangement which interferes with a race and cannot be justified by the relevant team's interest in the drivers' championship, nor any arrangement between teams.

In other words, Irvine letting Schumacher past in Austria was permissible, but David Coulthard allowing his McLaren team-mate Mika Hakkinen to overtake in Melbourne was not.

Golf

Putts but not pounds making Monty fretful

Gordon Richardson in Stockholm

COLIN Montgomerie returns to the fray here at Kungsangen with the sobering thought that victory in the Scandinavian Masters would still leave him trailing in Lee Westwood's wake at the top of the European rankings.

The 35-year-old Scot has lorded it as European No. 1 since October 1993 and earned £5,376,166 in prize money in the process but Westwood, with three Tour wins to his credit this season, rules the roost with £590,385 from 13 starts.

Montgomerie, in second place, is £158,076 behind and even if he adds to his PGA Championship win here he will still be £24,746 adrift with eight events to go. He claims it is of little concern to him after five successive triumphs and said yesterday: "Lee is playing very well and good luck to him — he reminds me of myself five or six years ago.

"My priority right now is to keep my game in good order with the US PGA two weeks away — my putting isn't what it should be. I haven't putted well for two years and I'll be going out to Seattle the Saturday before the championship to work on my short game.

"Failing to qualify in the Open was probably a blessing in disguise. It gives you time to think about things and come back refreshed."

Westwood, who won this title two years ago, is taking a two-week breather before the season's last major so the chief threat to Montgomerie will probably come from Darren Clarke, Thomas Bjorn and Jose Maria Olazabal, in fourth, fifth and sixth places in the rankings. Clarke looks the most dangerous after finishing a stroke behind Australia's Stephen Leaney in the Dutch Open on Sunday.

The teenaged hero of Royal Birkdale, Justin Rose, is back in action on his 18th birthday today with his father and coach insisting that any celebrations will be postponed until the new professional's break next month.

Boxing

Tyson booed at hearing

CHEERS mingled with boos in Trenton yesterday as Mike Tyson arrived for the hearing to determine whether he should be re-licensed to fight in New Jersey.

Half a dozen members of the feminist National Organization for Women demonstrated outside while Tyson's lawyer assured the state's Athletic Board that he would show them a rather different Tyson from the man banned from the ring after biting Evander Holyfield.

"We want to show a brighter side," said Anthony Fusco, who has known his client for six weeks.

"A piece of the street came out in him," said Bobby Czyz, the former world light-heavyweight champion, testifying on Tyson's behalf. Personally, he said, if he had knocked an opponent's eye out he would have eaten it rather than let it be retrieved. "That," Czyz insisted, "is the kind of mentality you have to have."

The panel has 45 days to decide if Tyson has "good character, honesty, integrity and responsibility," as required by the state's boxing law.

No immediate decision is expected but the forecast is that he will be back in the ring sooner rather than later, an idea borne out by yesterday's £14 million offer from Frank Warren for Tyson to come to Britain to challenge the World Boxing Organisation champion, Herbie Hide.

Cricket

One-day tour match: Essex v South Africans

Kirsten on the rampage

GARY KIRSTEN enjoyed a can-can by the Can yesterday, sweeping to an unbeaten 141 as the South Africans shelved their Trent Bridge Test woes to trounce a depleted Essex side by 177 runs in a 50-over friendly at Chelmsford.

The tourists amassed 310 for five then dispatched the AXA League leaders inside 32 overs to preserve their 100 per cent record against first-class counties in one-day matches.

Kirsten helped himself to 15 fours and a six in an innings spanning 132 deliveries, sharing an opening stand of 97 in 16 overs with Mike Rindel, who joined the party only yesterday as a replacement for the injured Adam Bacher.

Rindel, who has been playing for Leek in the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire League, announced his arrival with 50 from 54 balls, a prelude to the mayhem that saw Jonty Rhodes (69 off 52 balls) help Kirsten plunder 124 for the fourth wicket from 16 overs.

The only home bowler to emerge with ego intact was Peter Such, who took three for 31 in his 10-over spell. His fellow spinner Paul Grayson, one of eight uncapped players named in England's preliminary World Cup squad, finished with nought for 56.

Missing six of their Benson and Hedges Cup-winning team, Essex subsided meekly in reply with only Paul Prichard among the top order batsmen reaching 20. Pat Symcox, the combative veteran who has spent most of the tour on the sidelines yet is almost certain to be South Africa's sole specialist spinner in the triangular tournament with England and Sri Lanka, claimed five for 40.

SOUTH AFRICANS

G Kirsten not out	141
M J R Rindel b Such	50
B M McMillan c Hyam b Such	6
S M Pollock c Hyam b Such	9
J N Rhodes c Such b Cousins	69
J H Kallis c Wilson b Cowan	6
†M V Boucher not out	11
Extras (lb6, w8, nb2)	16
Total (for 5, 50 overs)	310

Fall of wickets 97, 115, 139, 263, 280
Did not bat: *W J Cronje, S Elworthy, P L Symcox, M Ntini.*
Bowling: Cowan 10–1–63–1; Cousins 10–1–79–1; Wilson 7–0–56–0; Such 10–1–31–3; Grayson 10–0–54–0; Hibbert 3–0–19–0.

ESSEX

*†P J Prichard c Rhodes b McMillan	20
D D J Robinson lbw b Elworthy	0
T P Hodgson c McMillan b Pollock	14
A P Grayson c & b Elworthy	1
A J E Hibbert b Symcox	9
D R Law c Elworthy b Symcox	3
D G Wilson c McMillan b Pollock	24
†B J Hyam c McMillan b Symcox	27
A P Cowan c Rhodes b Symcox	16
D M Cousins c Rindel b Symcox	1
P M Such not out	0
Extras (b2, lb5, w4, nb5)	16
Total (31.4 overs)	133

Fall: 1, 44, 45, 47, 50, 77, 91, 119, 127.
Bowling: Pollock 8–0–25–2; Elworthy 7–3–20–2; McMillan 6–0–27–1; Symcox 8.4–1–40–5; Ntini 2–0–13–0.
Umpires: B Leadbeater and M J Harris.

Underachievers bank on NatWest resurgence

THE upshot of one of the most surprising quarter-final rounds in 60-over annals may well be the least inspiring semi-final pairings since cricket's most durable one-day competition began 35 summers ago. Still, there are consolations: the favourites, Lancashire and Leicestershire, are on course to contest this year's NatWest Trophy final.

Having triumphed unexpectedly at Lord's and The Oval respectively, Hampshire's clutch of thirty-somethings will host Lancashire, five-time winners of the competition, while Derbyshire, dismal for most of the summer, travel to Grace Road for a tie that brings together the two first-class counties — Durham aside — who began the season with the fewest NatWest/Gillette Cup victories, 36 apiece.

Draw: Southampton: Hampshire v Lancashire (Aug 11); Grace Road: Leicestershire v Derbyshire (Aug 12).

Cricket
News and Scores
0930 16 13 +
Counties update

Derbyshire	24	Middlesex	33
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Essex	26	Nottingham	35
Glamorgan	27	Somerset	36
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Hampshire	29	Sussex	38
Kent	30	Warwicks.	39
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Henry . . . five-year deal

Goodwood fine for Dettori, page 13

Sol slips into trouble, page 14

Premiership backs off, page 14

Tour on strike again, page 15

SportsGuardian

The Venglos' men see off Irish part-timers



Celtic warriors . . . the St Patrick's midfielder Leon Braithwaite is stopped in his tracks by determined Celtic defending as the part-timers' dream dies at Tolka Park last night

European Cup: First qualifying round, second leg: St Patrick's Athletic 0 Celtic 2 (agg: 0–2)

Brattbakk sets up Zagreb mission

Charles Stuart in Dublin

ufdrop
GOALS in each half from Harold Brattbakk and Henrik Larsson booked Celtic a place in the next qualifying round against Croatia Zagreb next month after merited victory over the Irish part-timers of St Patrick's Athletic.

After the goalless draw in the first leg at Parkhead in front of 57,000 there could hardly have been a bigger contrast for the Scottish champions when Tom Boyd led his men out at the 9,500-capacity Tolka Park. Yet Celtic could have been excused thinking this was a home game such was the volume of sound that welcomed Dr Jo Venglos and his team.

There were divided loyalties for the Dublin crowd, many of them bedecked in both the green of Celtic and the red of the home side.

With the away goal so important, Celtic put the emphasis on attack from the start with the assistance of a stiff breeze. Craig Burley had one long-range effort collected by Trevor Wood as Celtic piled on the pressure. St Patrick's were again happy to contain the striking trio of Harald Brattbakk, Henrik Larsson and Darren Jackson.

Pat Dolan, manager of the Republic of Ireland champions, always feared a backlash after his team's heroics at Parkhead. His worst fears were realised when Brattbakk scored in the 11th minute.

A long ball from Alan Stubbs allowed the Norwegian to step inside Paul Campbell and, although Wood got his hand to the ball, he could not prevent it crossing the line.

Brattbakk might have grabbed a second goal in 22 minutes. Unfortunately he opted to shoot from 20 yards, straight at Wood, when it might have paid to square the ball to Larsson.

The Dublin side were also fortunate when Brattbakk appeared to be taken down in the penalty area by the Canadian international Jeff Clarke after a right-wing cross by the tricky Jackie McManara. But the referee waved play on.

It was one-way traffic and only the brilliance of Wood presented Larsson from scoring after a neat interchange between Paul Lambert and Craig Burley.

Then Stubbs, joining his attack, had a shot blocked by Paul Osam at the expense of a corner. Jonathan Gould did not have a shot worth of the name in the opening half.

Larsson missed another chance in first-half injury time when he was found just inside the penalty area by Jackson's searching pass. Larsson, totally unmarked, headed over.

The introduction of Keith Doyle and Martin Russell stirred the Irish champions into more aggression in the second half and Gould was tested on 48 minutes when Clarke's angled shot was clawed away under pressure from Ian Gilzean.

A Stubbs backheel hit an upright, but Larsson added a second goal in the 72nd minute after Regi Blinker created the opening on the left. Larsson outpaced Pat Lynch and coolly rounded Wood before scoring.

St Patrick's Athletic (4–5–1): Wood; Clarke, Lynch, Hawkins, Campbell; Braithwaite, Morgan, Osam, Gormley, Molloy; Gilzean.
Celtic (3–4–3): Gould; Mackay, Stubbs, Boyd; McNamara, Burley, Lambert, Blinker; Brattbakk, Larsson, Jackson.
Referee: M Vuorola (Finland).
Subs: St Pats: Doyle and Russell for Campbell and Morgan (both 45 mins), Riley for Gilzean (74 mins).
Celtic: Donnelly for Jackson (68 mins), McKinlay for Blinker (74 mins).

The hardest men in sport wear silks



Laura Thompson

A FEW years ago I worked in the theatre, an experience which has left me with singularly unfond memories of actors. However gifted, their greater talent was always for whingeing: about the director, about their part, about the way that Caspar stole their laugh — did you see him?

I thought that no other profession could produce such a crowd of downright moaners. Now, however, I wonder if sport hasn't overtaken acting in the whingeing stakes.

When I first started writing about sport, about eight years ago, sports-people seemed to have a truly endearing sense of their own good fortune. They knew that they were paid to do what those who watched could only dream of doing: that a yard of pace or an eye for a ball had propelled them, with wondrous felicity, into a life of privilege. They were damned lucky and they were happy to admit it. Indeed they delighted in their luck, and worked as hard as they could to hold on to it.

But now, as every day seems to bring them more money, more success, more adoration, so — perhaps inevitably — they have become ever more like actors: a right bunch of moaning minnies.

The more favoured by fortune they are, the more miserable they seem to be. You might, on a good day, get a smile out of a Luton Town footballer, but Manchester United? Those boys only look happy when Hello! magazine is paying them to do so.

In fact successive sports-people carry on as if their privileged lives are beset by appalling hardships. The attentions of the media — without which most of them would pine away and die — are received with weary diva-like disdain.

The greatest whinge of all, though, is the one that really takes me back to those purgatorial years in the theatre. It is a moan much beloved by actors and it now hovers readily on the lips of almost every successful sports-person; the claim that they are "tired".

Footballers are always tired, despite the fact that most of them are barely of voting age or that, in an average day, they get up, train for a couple of hours and then fill in the time before dinner at Teatro whingeing about photo-shoots with Vogue Homme and golf swings. Once or twice a week they also have to do the thing for which they are paid yearly about as much as the national debt of Mozambique; that is to say, play a game of football. Frankly, my dear, it is all too, too terribly shattering.

And what about rugby players, those new recruits to the ranks of professional moaners? Well, they have to train almost every day, on top of which they must play 80-minute matches without even a proper interval. In fact they barely have time to squirt 5,000 calories of isotonic liquid down necks the size of most people's waists before, would you believe it, they have to start all over again for a second act. Exhausting.

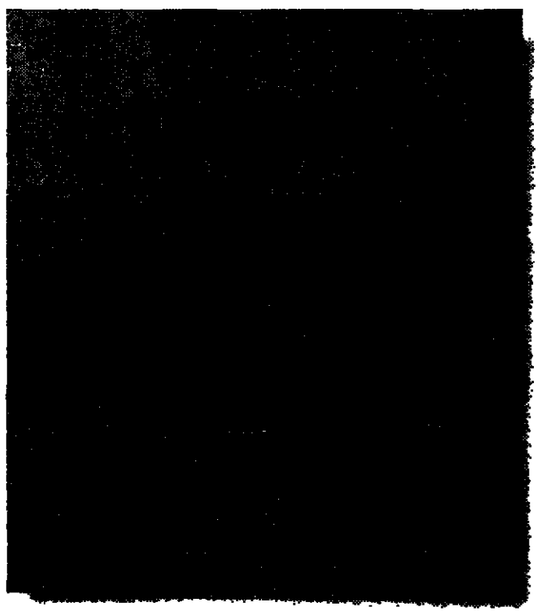
I could go on, telling sad tales of cricketers who have stood at the crease for a whole day, or of athletes forced to run a 100 metres heat and final in the same afternoon. But I shall, instead, try to shame this pampered army of whingeing wimps by eulogising the only sports-people who are never heard to moan: the jockeys with whom I am admiringly communing at Glorious Goodwood this week.

IF ANYONE could claim the right to be tired, it is the jockey. Just thinking about his — or occasionally her — sporting life fills me with awe: up he will get, at some God-forsaken hour, to ride out on the training gallops before driving like a pocket Schumacher to a race meeting where, if he is lucky, he will have five or six rides. After that, if he is even luckier, he will flash off to an evening meeting and do it all again.

A dozen times in a day the jockey might have grappled with a recalcitrant thoroughbred 10 times his weight, fighting like a little devil for control and for victory.

And all on no food! While other athletes replenish themselves with a River Café-full of pasta, the jockey does it on half a Ryvita and a puff of cigar smoke. But do they moan? Do they whinge? Never.

Whatever you may think of his sport, the jockey is deserving of respect: for his courage, his grit, his unquestioning and cheerful determination to get on with the job. He may be the size of a starved child but, compared with all those overfed, over-paid, overgrown babies that the world has turned into demigods, he is a man among men.



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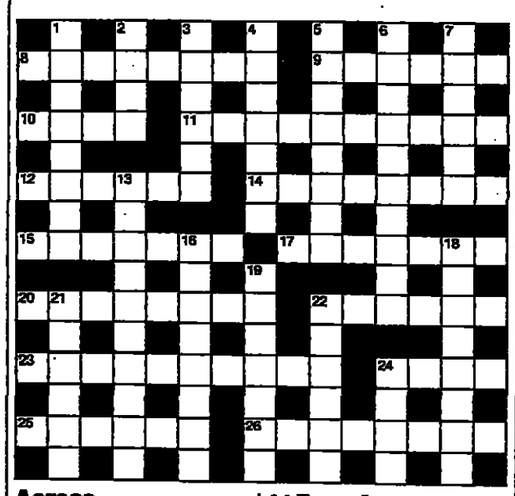
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Why can't your aunt file her tax return over the Internet? Why are government offices closed except when you're at work, instead of staying open until midnight? Jack Schofield on wiring up Whitehall

Online G2 p12

Guardian Crossword No 21,340

Set by Crispa



Across

8 The meeting's about over — left in a hole (5)
9 Have a fling, taking in a show (6)
10 A listener after noon or thereabouts (4)
11 The ending of the line gets royalty very upset (5,5)
12 Beginning a translation of "Crusoe" (6)
14 A short way to express a difference of opinion (3,2,3)
15 Delayed getting overdrawn, so it's said (7)
17 Post requiring erudition (7)
20 Purchase money always available on time (6)
22 Value of the female donkey? (6)
23 The artist returning permitted dope index (10)
24 The very finest — or worst! (4)
25 Go and bang the drum (4,2)
26 One means to correct such bloomers (8)

Down

1 A green vegetable sustained the merry old soul (8)
2 Mark some exam papers — care must be exercised (4)
3 Deal with the outfit! (6)
4 Sense of purpose? (7)
5 A young French worker greets it doubtfully (8)
6 Accords too much importance to the American president's position (10)
7 Virginia, a retiring girl, a subordinate (6)
13 A tree least suited for valuable land (4,6)
16 Possibly shouldered by men prepared to face hostility (8)
18 Note the nurse in charge is one who won't yield an inch (8)
19 It's quite true about 6's correction (7)
21 Story written up — editor in high spirits! (6)
22 The man rendering a joyful song (6)
24 Sound upsurge in the country's economy (4)

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